ANC

PLASTIC MAN

THE FIEND OF A THOUSAND FACES

A QUALITY COMIC PUBLICATION

JULY
No. 47

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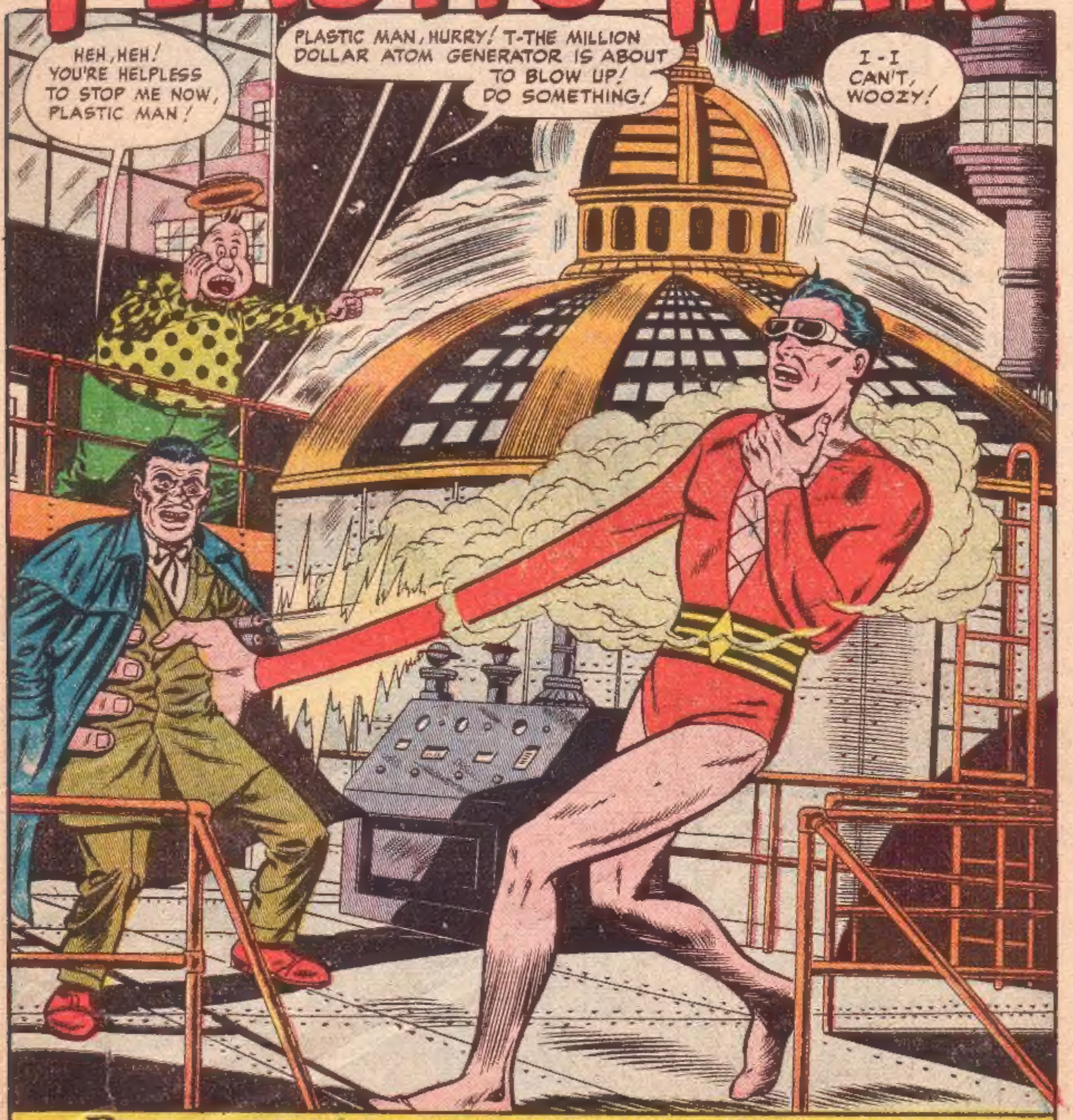
PLASTIC MAN


HEH, HEH! YOU'RE HELPLESS TO STOP ME NOW, PLASTIC MAN!
PLASTIC MAN, HURRY! T-THE MILLION DOLLAR ATOM GENERATOR IS ABOUT TO BLOW UP! DO SOMETHING!
I-I CAN'T, WOOZY!

DEATH AND DISGRACE AWAITED PLASTIC MAN WHEN HE CONFRONTED THE TERRIBLE LITTLE MAN WHO COULDN'T BE CAPTURED! IN THE VITAL MAPLE RIDGE ATOMIC CITY HE DODGED HIS WAY PAST PANIC STRICKEN AUTHORITIES AND FLAUNTED HIS SABOTAGE IN THEIR FACES! ALARMED OFFICIALS KNEW FULL WELL THAT ONLY THE FAMED PLASTIC MAN HAD A CHANCE OF DEFEATING...

THE FIEND OF A THOUSAND FACES

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY A STRANGE LITTLE MAN STANDS INNOCENTLY ATOP A RAIL BRIDGE! THEN, AS A THUNDERING ARMY FREIGHT TRAIN APPROACHES..

TWEEEE!

SPLIT SECONDS LATER, THE FIGURE DIRECTS HIS FULL ATTENTION TO THE PASSING FREIGHT BELOW!

UP A FEW INCHES AND A LITTLE MORE TO THE LEFT! STEADY, STEADY...

SAY...WHAT'S THAT CHARACTER DOING UP THERE?

GREAT SCOTT! IT'S THE *FIEND!* STOP THE TRAIN, SOLDIER! THAT MAD SABOTEUR IS UP TO SOMETHING!

GO OVER THAT FREIGHT WITH A FINE TOOTH COMB! NOTHING IS SAFE WITH THE FIEND AROUND! I'LL TRY TO APPREHEND HIM!

YES, SIR!

SCREECH!

ATOP THE BRIDGE THE NATION'S PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE SCURRIES FOR SAFETY!...F.B.I. AGENT COLLINS IN HOT PURSUIT!

I'LL NAB THE CRAZY FOOL THIS TIME...HE'LL HAVE TO PULL A MIRACLE TO GET OUT OF MY SIGHT AGAIN!

G-GONE! BUT HOW..? SIR... THE LITTLE CHARACTER WHO JUST PASSED YOU... WHICH WAY DID HE GO?

IN THAT BUILDING, YOUNG MAN!

THANKS... WHA..?

KABOOM!

SHORTLY, AS THE SAD FACED GOVERNMENT MAN REPORTS TO HIS SUPERIOR!

THERE WAS NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, CHIEF... IT WAS THE FIEND! HE MANAGED TO DESTROY THE A-CANNON WITH AN EXPLOSIVE CHARGE! THEN HE MADE A CLEAN ESCAPE!

CONFOUND IT! HOW DOES THE CHARACTER DISAPPEAR LIKE THAT? ALL RIGHT, COLLINS! CHECK IN AND FILE A REPORT!

THUS IT IS THAT THE FAMED F.B.I. TEAM OF PLASTIC MAN AND WOOZY CONFER WITH THEIR CHIEF THE FOLLOWING DAY!

HE'S DONE IT AGAIN, PLASTIC MAN! THE FIEND IS THE MOST ELUSIVE CRIMINAL WE'VE EVER CONTENDED WITH... OUR NATIONAL SECURITY IS AT STAKE!

THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO APPREHEND HIM, CHIEF!

AT PRESENT I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH DEFENDING OURSELVES AGAINST HIS SABOTAGE! CAN YOU REALIZE WHAT IT WOULD MEAN IF THE FIEND INFILTRATED INTO OUR ATOMIC PLANT AT MAPLE RIDGE?

YES... EVERY IMPORTANT ATOMIC SECRET WE HAVE IS LOCATED THERE!

EXACTLY! AND SINCE WE CONSIDER YOU AND WOOZY OUR MOST ABLE MEN, I'M ASSIGNING YOU TO THE JOB OF SAFEGUARDING THAT PLANT! OF COURSE, YOU'LL ASSUME FALSE IDENTITIES TO AVOID SUSPICION!

WE'LL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY, CHIEF! AND DON'T WORRY... IF THE FIEND SHOWS HIS FACE AT MAPLE RIDGE WE'LL NAB HIM!

WE HAVEN'T FAILED YET, EH, PLAS?

THE VERY NEXT DAY PLASTIC MAN AND WOOZY ARE ON THE JOB... IN DISGUISE!

WHEW! I'M NOT USED TO THIS JANITOR ROUTINE, PLAS! HOW'S ABOUT A FIVE MINUTE BREAK?

I COULD DO WITH A LITTLE REST AT THAT, WOOZY! ROLL ME TO A WORK BENCH WHERE I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS!

H-HEY, PLAS... WATCH IT! DO YOU WANT SOMEONE TO SPOT YOU?

I'VE GOT TO PEEK OUT ONCE IN AWHILE, WOOZY! YOU CAN LEAVE NOW... BUT DON'T BE TOO LONG!

OKAY, PLAS!

KEEP ON THE ALERT, WOOZY! NO TELLING WHEN THIS FIEND CHARACTER WILL STRIKE!

TWEEE! ♪♫

HM-M... MAYBE THIS WASN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA! I'VE BECOME A HUMAN WASTE COLLECTOR! SAY... WHAT'S THAT TICKING NOISE?

IT... SOUNDS LIKE SOME KIND OF BOMB! GREAT SCOTT! THAT MAN... HE FITS THE DESCRIPTION OF THE FIEND!

Y-YIPES! IT'S PLASTIC MAN!

RIGHT, CHARACTER! AND THE MINUTE I GET RID OF THIS MISSILE OF DESTRUCTION I'M GOING TO WRAP MY FIST AROUND YOUR JAW!

HEY, PLAS! THIS IS NO TIME FOR GAMES! W-WHAT... WAS THAT?

A PRESENT FROM OUR LITTLE FRIEND, THE FIEND, WOOZY!

BOOOM!

JUST LET ME AT THAT SABOTAGING SKUNK!

YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT YOUR TURN, WOOZY! DRAT... MISSED HIM!

AN INSTANT LATER, AS PLASTIC MAN AND WOOZY TEAR AROUND THE CORNER!

W-WHAT IN THUNDER... HE'S *VANISHED!*

HUH...? BUT THERE'S NO PLACE FOR HIM TO GO, PLAS! *NO PLACE!*

SAY... WHERE DID THAT LITTLE FELLOW GO WHO JUST RAN AROUND HERE?

I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE! JUST YOU AND THAT LITTLE FAT BOY!

HEY! I'M NO BOY!

I KNOW, WOOZY! THIS LITTLE DISAPPEARANCE ACT WAS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE ... YET HE DID IT! COME ON ... WE'D BETTER NOTIFY THE CHIEF OF WHAT HAPPENED!

IT'S ... FANTASTIC!

LATER, AS WE FOLLOW JOHN C. SMYTHE, EMPLOYEE OF THE ATOMIC PLANT, HOME FOR THE DAY! BUT WHAT IS THIS ... A MANSION AND A SERVANT?

GOOD EVENING, SIR! I TRUST YOU HAD A SUCCESSFUL DAY!

HUMPH! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IF PLASTIC MAN AND THAT FAT FRIEND OF HIS HADN'T BOTCHED THINGS UP! HELP ME OFF WITH MY GEAR, ANTHONY!

PLASTIC MAN! I UNDERSTAND HE'S THE CLEVEREST AGENT THE F.B.I. HAS, FIEND! WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO NOW?

DESTROY MAPLE RIDGE AS PLANNED, ANTHONY! I'VE LONG ANTICIPATED INTERFERENCE FROM HIM! LET'S GO INTO THE DISGUISE ROOM! I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE FIEND'S FABULOUS "DISGUISE ROOM"...

YOU SEE, I HAVE INVENTED A SUPER DISGUISE FOR JUST SUCH AN EMERGENCY! NOW THAT THEY HAVE PLASTIC MAN ON MY TRAIL I DEEM IT TIME TO USE IT!

BUT ... WHAT COULD POSSIBLY STOP PLASTIC MAN?

ANTI-PLASTIC MAN COSTUMES

THIS COAT, ANTHONY! HARMLESS APPEARING, ISN'T IT? YET, THIS IS MY GREATEST ACHIEVMENT!

I ..I DON'T UNDERSTAND, FIEND!

MY EXTRAORDINARY COAT CONTAINS ENOUGH GIMMICKS TO DEFEAT PLASTIC MAN OR ANYONE ELSE WHO STANDS IN MY WAY!

PERHAPS ... BUT THEY WILL BE SEARCHING FOR YOU AT MAPLE RIDGE NOW! HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY ELUDE DETECTION?

AH ... BUT YOU FORGET, ANTHONY! WITH THIS MAN'S STOLEN IDENTITY I CAN PASS BEFORE PLASTIC MAN'S VERY EYES WITHOUT FEAR! REMEMBER, HE IS LOOKING FOR THE FIEND ... NOT JOHN C. SMYTHE, WORKER!

TRUE! TRUE! YOU ARE A GENIUS, SIR!

GOSH, WE'VE GONE THROUGH THE PLANT FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW THE FIEND CAN HIDE OUT UNDER THE VERY EYES OF SECURITY GUARDS IN MAPLE RIDGE!

G-GOLLY! IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE CAN MAKE HIMSELF INVISIBLE!

HEH, HEH!

A MOMENT LATER, AS PLASTIC MAN AND WOOZY CONTINUE THEIR FRUITLESS SEARCH!

THAT'S IT, MY ELASTIC FRIEND... JUST KEEP OUT OF THE WAY WHILE I CONTINUE MY WORK!

Then...

AND NOW, FIVE POUNDS OF MY ELECTRIFIED EMERY POWDER WILL PUT AN END TO THAT MILLION DOLLAR ATOMIC GENERATOR IN A FLASH!

EMERY

But THE FIEND IS UNAWARE THAT PLASTIC MAN HAS TAKEN SPECIAL STEPS TO KEEP THE ENTIRE AREA UNDER SURVEILANCE!

ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, PLAS?

NOT A THING AS YET, WOOZY... WAIT A MINUTE!

IT'S THE FIEND! HE'S UP TO SOMETHING ATOP THAT PRICELESS ATOMIC GENERATOR!

WOW!

AND THAT'S THAT! WHEN MY POWDER HITS THE VITAL PARTS... YIPE! THAT BOUNCING BABOON HAS SPOTTED ME!

HAVE TO HURRY... HIS AMAZING ABILITY MAKES HIM TEN TIMES MORE DANGEROUS THAN ORDINARY LAW ENFORCERS!

THERE HE GOES... LIKE A GREASED JACKRABBIT!

BUT THIS TIME I'VE GOT HIM!

YIIIIK!

OH. WELL!

NOW, FIEND...YOUR SABOTAGE DAYS ARE.....

...O-V-E-R!

YEOW! A BOLT OF ATOMIC ENERGY!

P-PLAS! Y-YOUR FIST IS ON FIRE!

CLAMMY OLD FIST YOU HAVE, PLASTIC MAN! THAT SHOULD WARM IT UP!

Then, AS PLASTIC MAN IS ABOUT TO PURSUE HIS FIENDISH QUARRY...

BYE...

T-THAT RAT! I'LL GET HIM... I'LL FIX HIM!

WHA...? WOOZY! THAT CHARACTER'S DUMPED EMERY POWDER IN THE GENERATOR!

QUICKLY, PLASTIC MAN REACHES DEEP INTO THE GENERATOR!

THAT EMERY POWDER IS USED BY SABOTEURS TO DESTROY MACHINES! LET'S HOPE I CAN GET IT OUT BEFORE IT WORKS INTO THE VITAL PARTS!

And A MOMENT AFTERWARD...

GOT IT!

WHEW! WHAT A BREAK, PLASTIC MAN! ONLY YOUR ARMS COULD STRETCH LONG ENOUGH AND SMALL ENOUGH TO GET THAT FILTER PAN OUT IN TIME! YOU'VE SAVED THE MACHINE!

LATER, AN EVIL TWINKLE FLICKERS IN THE EYES OF THE FIEND AS HE PLAYS HIS ROLE OF JOHN C. SMYTHE!

HEH, HEH! OLD RUBBER HEAD IS PLENTY WORRIED! POOR FOOL... HE HASN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET!

PLASTIC MAN

AFTER MIDNIGHT MAPLE RIDGE WILL BE WITHOUT IT'S GREAT ELECTRICAL PLANT THAT RUNS THE ATOM CITY!

DON'T SEE A THING, PLAS!

ALL RIGHT, WOOZY! WE'LL GO INTO OUR ALARM HEADQUARTERS AND WAIT!

That NIGHT IN THE ALARM CENTER!

WELL, WOOZY, WE'VE GOT AN ALARM BOARD THAT WILL NOTIFY US THE MOMENT ANY BUILDING IN MAPLE RIDGE IS BROKEN INTO! THAT WILL HELP US BATTLE THE FIEND!

YES, PLAS, BUT EVEN WHEN YOU CATCH UP WITH HIM NOW YOU CAN'T SEEM TO HOLD HIM!

POLICE HEADQUARTERS

MAIN BUILDING

ELECTRIC PLANT

UNDERGROUND CONTROL ROOM

YES, WOOZY...HE EVIDENTLY HAD A TRICK SUIT ON THAT SHOCKED ME! I'LL BE PREPARED WHEN WE MEET AGAIN! THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO DISCOVER JUST WHO THE FIEND IS!

GOSH, THE GUY'S LIKE A GHOST!

The HOURS PASS QUIETLY FOR THE TWO GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE! SUDDENLY AT MIDNIGHT...

THE ALARM! SOMEBODY'S MONKEYING AROUND THE ELECTRICAL PLANT!

THAT PLANT'S FOR FOUR MILES OFF! AND I KNOW A WAY TO GET ME THERE IN SPLIT SECONDS! WOOZY... YOU'RE GOING TO PUSH ME INTO THE PNEUMATIC TUBE THAT CONNECTS WITH ALL BUILDINGS!

MAIN BUILDING

ELECTRIC PLANT

ABRUPTLY, PLASTIC MAN'S CHUBBY COMPANION ASSISTS HIM AS...

PRESS THE BUTTON MARKED ELECTRICAL PLANT AND SHOVE HARD WOOZY!

R-RIGHT, PLAS! P-PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

THEN, AS THE POWERFUL SUCTION CATCHES THE MAN OF RUBBER...

WHEW! THIS IS LIKE HITCH HIKING A RIDE ON A JET!

SWOOOSH

8

And SCANT SECONDS LATER...

YIPE! PLASTIC MAN... S-SO SOON!

THAT'S RIGHT, FIEND...

PLASTIC MAN

... BUT THIS TIME YOUR ATOMIC SHOCK GIMMICK WON'T WORK! I HAVE LEAD LINED GLOVES!

WHA-AT?

NOW WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF YOUR ASTONISHING ABILITY TO AVOID DETECTION WHEN YOU AREN'T COMMITTING SABOTAGE!

TOO BAD, STRETCH ... BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE TELLING YOU WHO I AM JUST YET!

HEH, HEH! YOU COULDN'T CATCH ME IF YOU PUT EVERY MAPLE RIDGE EMPLOYEE UNDER A MICROSCOPE!

G-GAS! :CHOKE: :CHOKE: :GASP: :GASP:

DESPERATELY THE FEDERAL AGENT ATTEMPTS TO STAGGER AFTER THE ESCAPING FIEND!

HEE HEE! CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, RUBBER HEAD!

C-CAN'T LET HIM ESCAPE AGAIN! G-GOT TO CATCH HIM...

Then... WEAK...CAN'T CHASE HIM! WHAT DID HE SAY.. I COULDN'T FIND HIM NO MATTER HOW I SEARCHED! WAIT...*T-THAT INFRA-RED POWDER* GIVES ME AN IDEA!

HA, HA! 'BYE, PLASTIC MAN!

ABRUPTLY, PLASTIC MAN SUMMONS HIS LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH AND...

I...HOPE IT WORKS!

HO, HO, HO! HA, HA, HA! YOU THREW IT TOO FAR!

SHORTLY, WHEN WOOZY ARRIVES...

G-GOLLY! I-I THOUGHT SURE YOU WERE DEAD OR SOMETHING, PLAS!

JUST WEAK, WOOZY! HE SURE HAD A POWERFUL GAS IN THOSE SECRET CONTAINERS UNDER HIS COAT... BUT I'M GLAD IT HAPPENED! HURRY, WOOZY...GET ME BACK TO THE ROOF TOP!

PLASTIC MAN

LATER... I..I DON'T GET IT, PLAS! WHY ARE WE WATCHING ALL THE EMPLOYEES GETTING OUT OF WORK ON THE NIGHT SHIFT! HECK! WE DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THE FIEND LOOKS LIKE!

I KNOW, WOOZY.. BUT I'M EXPECTING WE SOON *WILL!*

SUDDENLY, AS PLASTIC MAN TRAINS HIS MYSTERIOUS SEARCHLIGHT, THAT CASTS NO BEAM, DOWN UPON THE EMPLOYEES...

PLAS! L-LOOK... FOOT PRINTS... GLOWING IN THE DARK!

RIGHT! WOOZY! AND THEY BELONG TO... *THE FIEND!* LET'S GO

P-PLAS! W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?

GO GET HIM, WOOZY! KNOCK THAT FIEND FOR A ROW OF BEANS!

OOMPH!

TAKE THAT YOU HEEL!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT FOR SABOTAGE FIEND. ONLY THIS TIME *WE'RE* SABOTAGING A SABOTEUR!

WELL, FIEND, THIS IS THE END OF YOUR SABOTEURING OPERATIONS! WE'RE BUNDLING YOU OFF TO FACE SECURITY OFFICIALS!

B-BUT HOW DID YOU CATCH ON?

SHORTLY, AS PLASTIC MAN TURNS THE FIEND OVER TO SECURITY OFFICERS!

GOOD GRIEF! YOU MEAN, PLASTIC MAN, THAT YOU THREW INFRA RED POWDER IN FRONT OF THE FIEND TO CAPTURE HIM!

RIGHT! WHEN THE POWDER LANDED IN FRONT OF HIM AND BURST OUT OF THE BOX HE WALKED THROUGH IT!

YOU SEE, BY BRAGGING THAT I COULD NEVER FIND HIM AMONG THE EMPLOYEES HE TIPPED ME OFF TO THE FACT THAT HE MIGHT BE *WORKING* HERE! THUS, WHEN I TURNED AN INFRA RED BEAM ON ALL FOOTPRINTS OF EMPLOYEES LEAVING HE WAS REVEALED AS THE GUILTY ONE BECAUSE THE BEAM PICKED UP THE INFRA RED POWDER!

SURE! WE WERE JUST TOO SMART FOR HIM!

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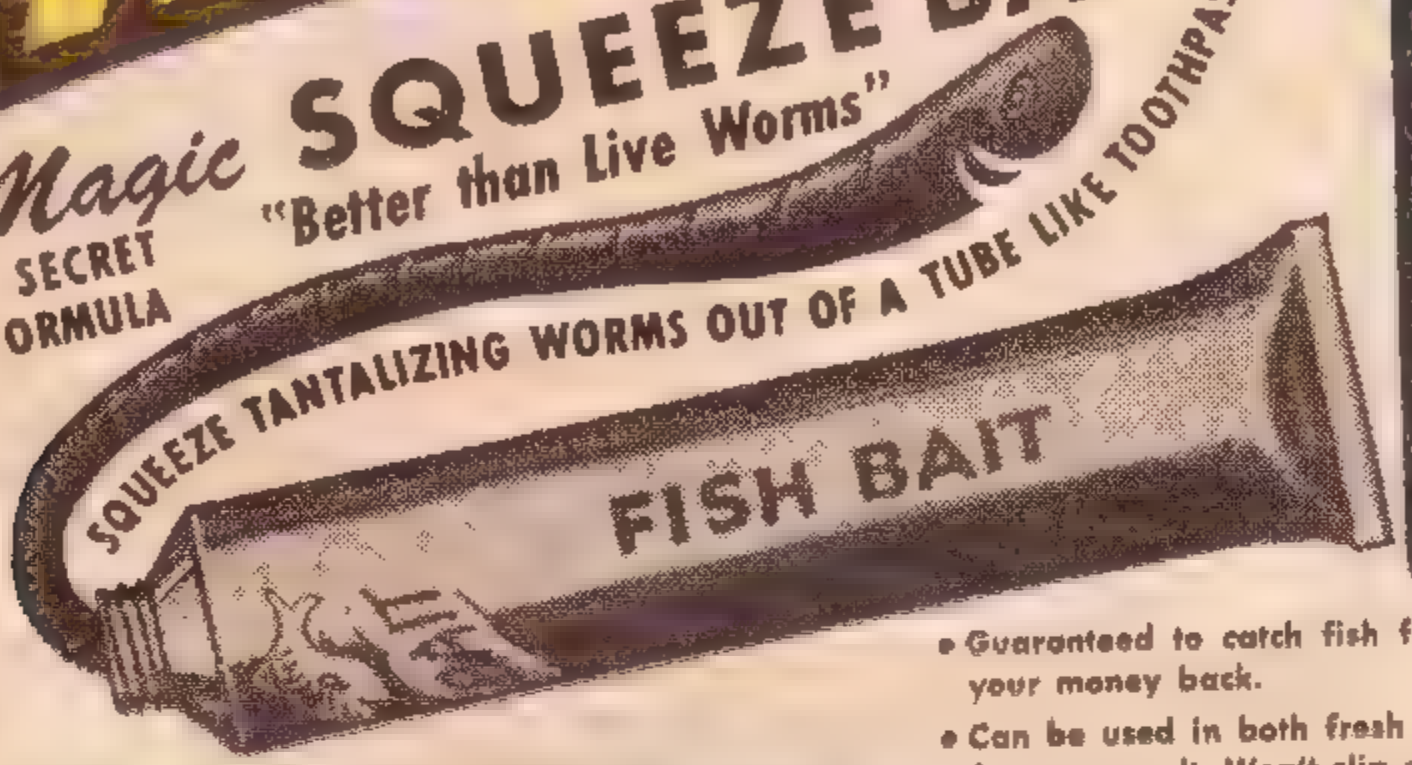
* SECRET FORMULA



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WOOZY

WOOZY WINKS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? DO YOU HAVE BEES IN YOUR BONNET?

NOT EXACTLY, BUT I'VE GOT FLEAS IN MY FEDORA!

D.D.T.

NOW LET'S SEE... I'VE GOT TO MEET MITZI AT 8:30! THAT MEANS I'VE GOT AN HOUR TO KILL!

FLEA CIRCUS

COME IN AND SEE THE SMARTEST LITTLE FLEAS IN THE WORLD!

ONLY 25¢

MY PROBLEM IS SOLVED! FLEA CIRCUS, HERE I COME!

PARDON ME, SIR... BUT HAVE YOU MISPLACED SOMETHING?

I CAN'T FIND FLORRIE OR FERDINAND ANYWHERE!

DO NOT OPEN THE CAGES!

GIVE ME A DESCRIPTION OF THEM AND I'LL TRACK THEM DOWN FOR YOU!

WELL, FLORRIE IS A SHY, RETIRING TYPE! FERDINAND IS SMART AS A WHIP AND FULL OF HIGH SPIRITS!

I'LL NEED MORE INFORMATION THAN THAT! WHAT'S THE COLOR OF FLORRIE'S HAIR?

SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY!

POOR GIRL! NO WONDER SHE'S SHY AND RETIRING!

I'M AFRAID THEY'RE GONE FOR GOOD!

DON'T GIVE UP SO EASILY, SIR! YOU'VE GOT WOOZY WINKS, ONE-MAN BUREAU OF MISSING PERSONS AT YOUR SERVICE!

YOU'RE KIND, MR. WINKS! BUT ONCE YOU'VE LOST A FLEA---

A FLEA?

OF COURSE! FERDINAND AND FLORRIE ARE TWO OF MY TRAINED FLEAS---

NOW HE TELLS ME! OH, GOLLY! I FEEL ITCHY ALREADY!

I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF THESE CLOTHES! I'LL DUCK INTO THAT THEATRE DOOR!

THERE'S NOBODY IN HERE!

I'LL BE SEEING YOU, MAC! I HAVE TO GET THE BIG BOY'S MONKEY SUIT!

OH, OH! ONCE I GET OUT OF THESE CLOTHES, WHAT WILL I GET INTO?

I BROUGHT YOUR SUIT, MAESTRO!

KNOCK! KNOCK!

HERE YOU ARE, MAESTRO, AND YOU'RE ON IN FIVE MINUTES!

A SUIT! IT MUST BE MENTAL TELEPATHY!

NOW LET'S SEE... I THINK THE STAGE DOOR IS THIS WAY!

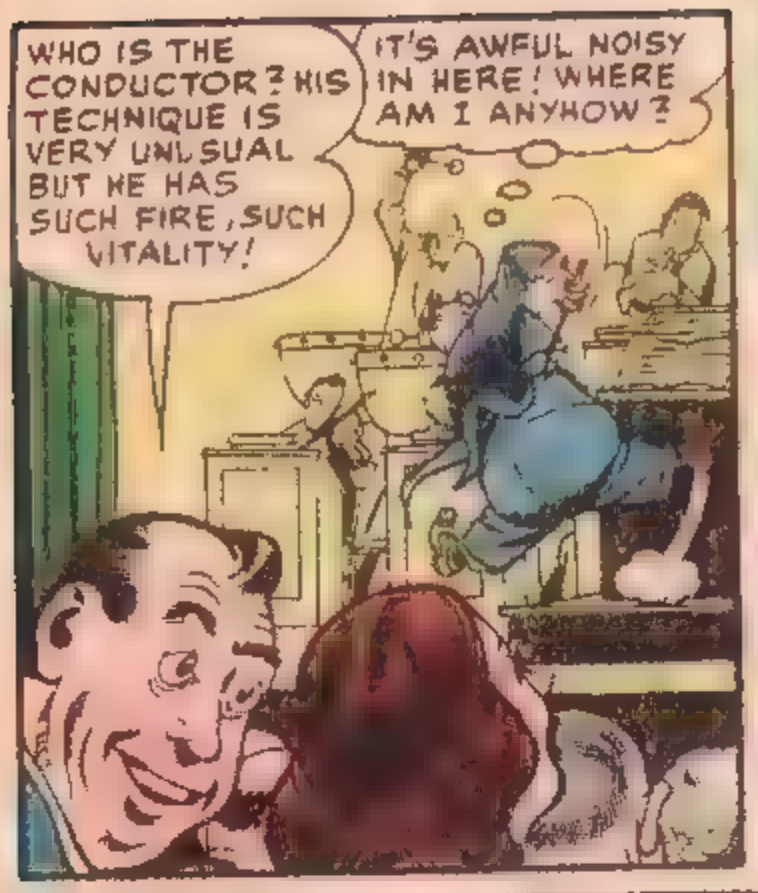
EULP! THOSE FLEAS ARE REALLY GETTING ATTACHED TO ME AND I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT! I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!

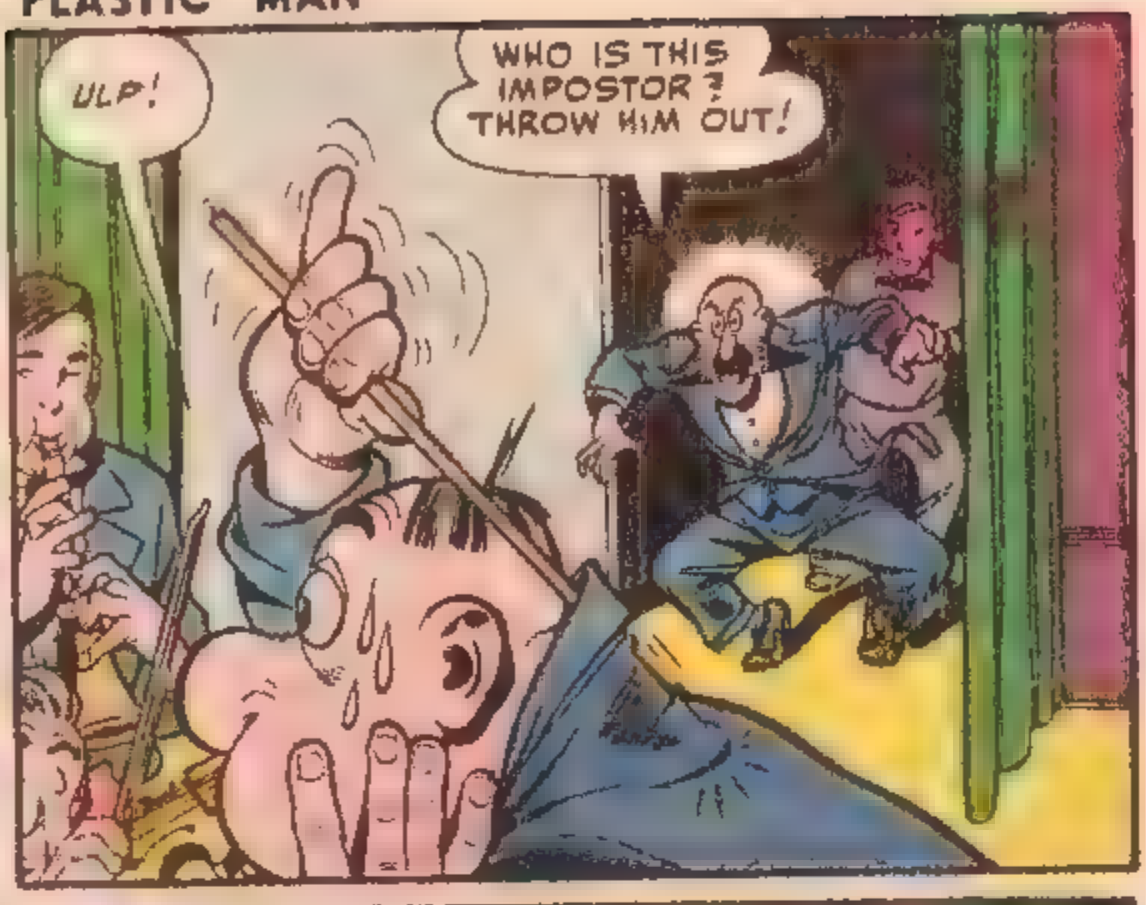
COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU ARE!

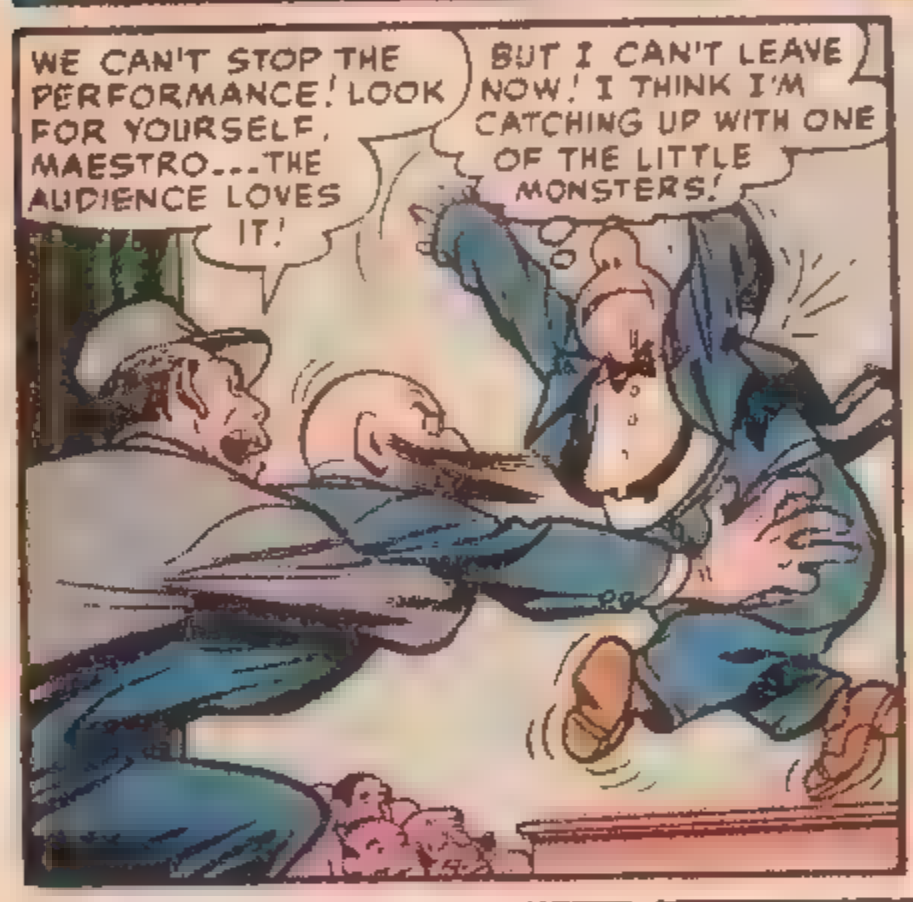
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A GUEST CONDUCTOR! I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAESTRO!

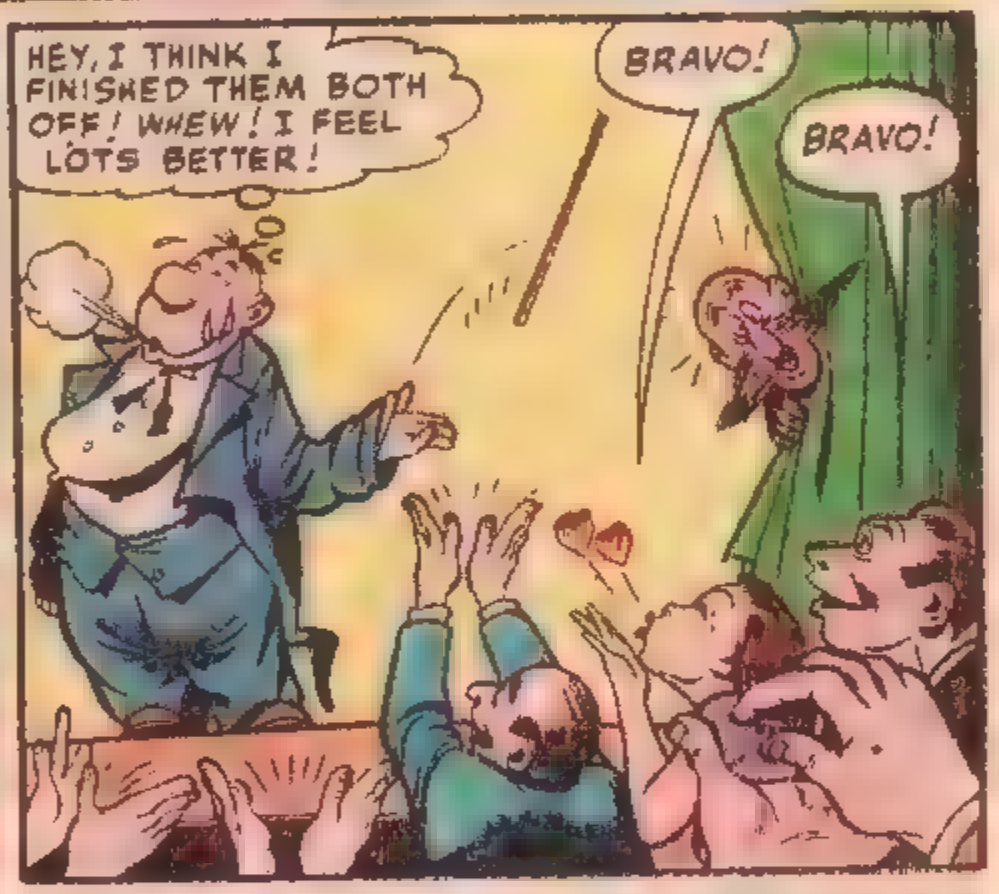
HE SURE HAS A PECULIAR WAY OF WARMING UP! BUT HE'S ABOUT READY TO BEGIN!

MAYBE I CAN USE THIS AS A BACK-SCRATCHER!

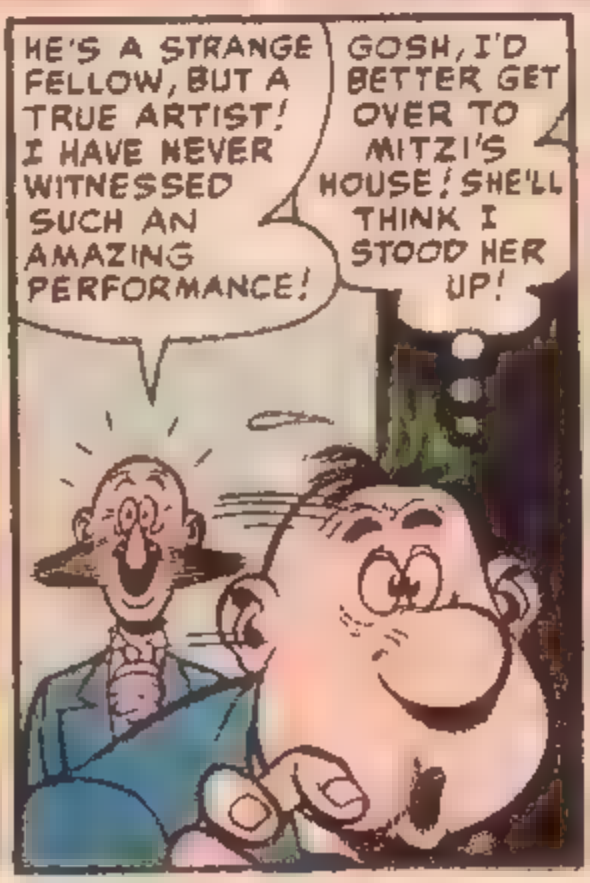

WHO IS THE CONDUCTOR? HIS TECHNIQUE IS VERY UNUSUAL BUT HE HAS SUCH FIRE, SUCH VITALITY!
IT'S AWFUL NOISY IN HERE! WHERE AM I ANYHOW?

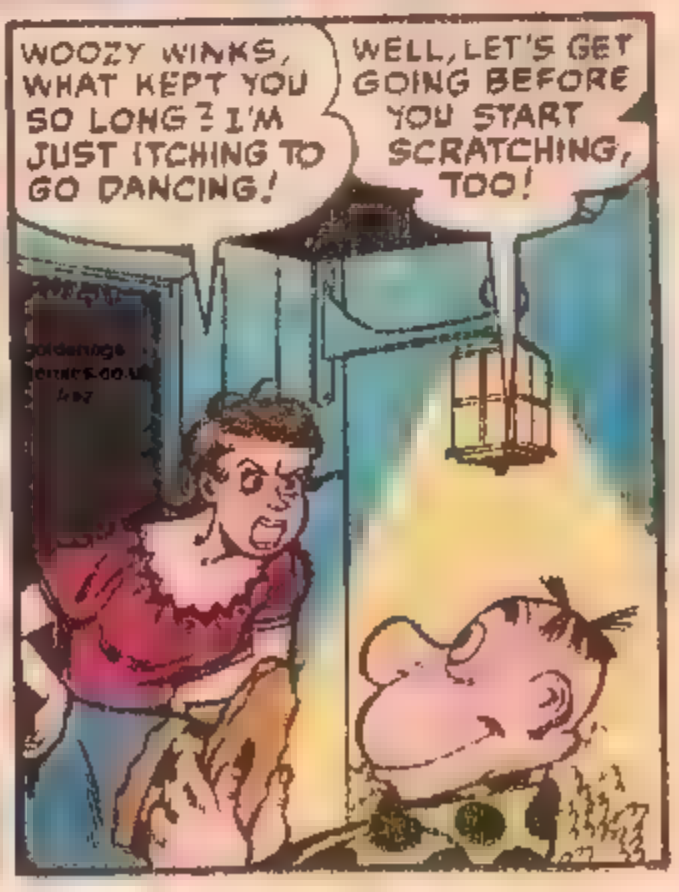

ULP!
WHO IS THIS IMPOSTOR? THROW HIM OUT!


WE CAN'T STOP THE PERFORMANCE! LOOK FOR YOURSELF, MAESTRO...THE AUDIENCE LOVES IT!
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE NOW! I THINK I'M CATCHING UP WITH ONE OF THE LITTLE MONSTERS!


HEY, I THINK I FINISHED THEM BOTH OFF! WHEW! I FEEL LOTS BETTER!
BRAVO!
BRAVO!

MAESTRO, YOU WERE SUPERB!
YEAH, I'M PRETTY PROUD OF MYSELF, TOO! I GOT BOTH OF THEM!


HE'S A STRANGE FELLOW, BUT A TRUE ARTIST! I HAVE NEVER WITNESSED SUCH AN AMAZING PERFORMANCE!
GOSH, I'D BETTER GET OVER TO MITZI'S HOUSE! SHE'LL THINK I STOOD HER UP!


WOOZY WINKS, WHAT KEPT YOU SO LONG? I'M JUST ITCHING TO GO DANCING!
WELL, LET'S GET GOING BEFORE YOU START SCRATCHING, TOO!

PLASTIC MAN

POOR LAD! I HATE TO SEE ANYBODY WORK SO HARD! HAVE A GOLD BAR! I HAVE BILLIONS OF THEM!

HUH?

CITY BANK & TRUST

CITY BANK & TRUST

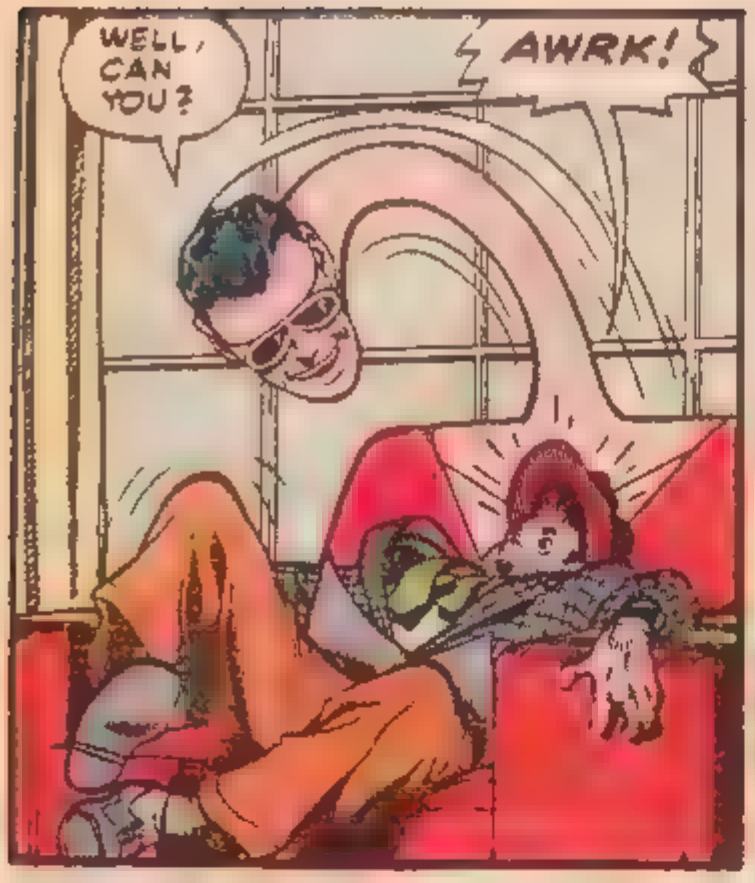
CAPTAIN BILLIONS HAD IT, STUDSY SYKES WANTED IT, WOOZY WINKS WAS CURIOUS ABOUT IT! ABOUT WHAT? ABOUT A TREASURE OF COURSE! A TREASURE IN BILLIONS!

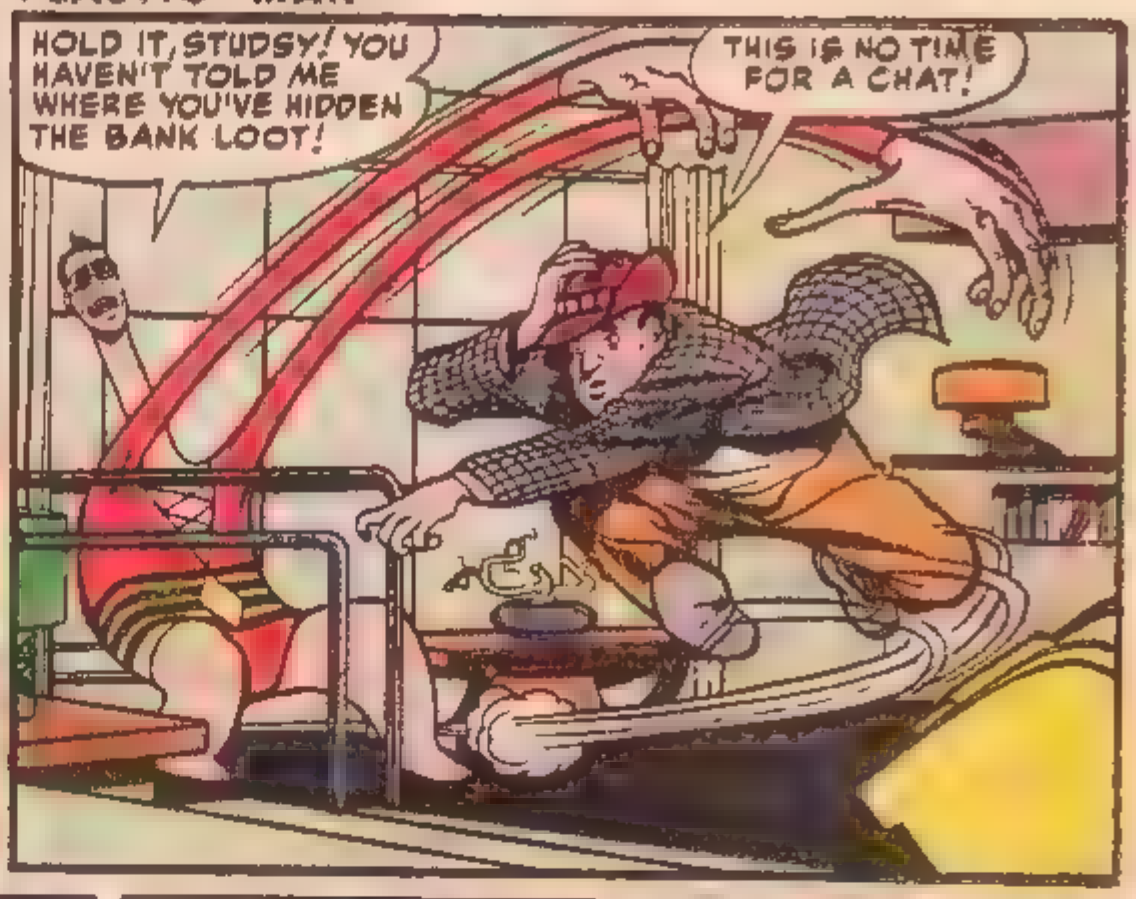
CAPTAIN BILLIONS' BILLIONS!

MADE IT! I DODGED PLASTIC MAN!

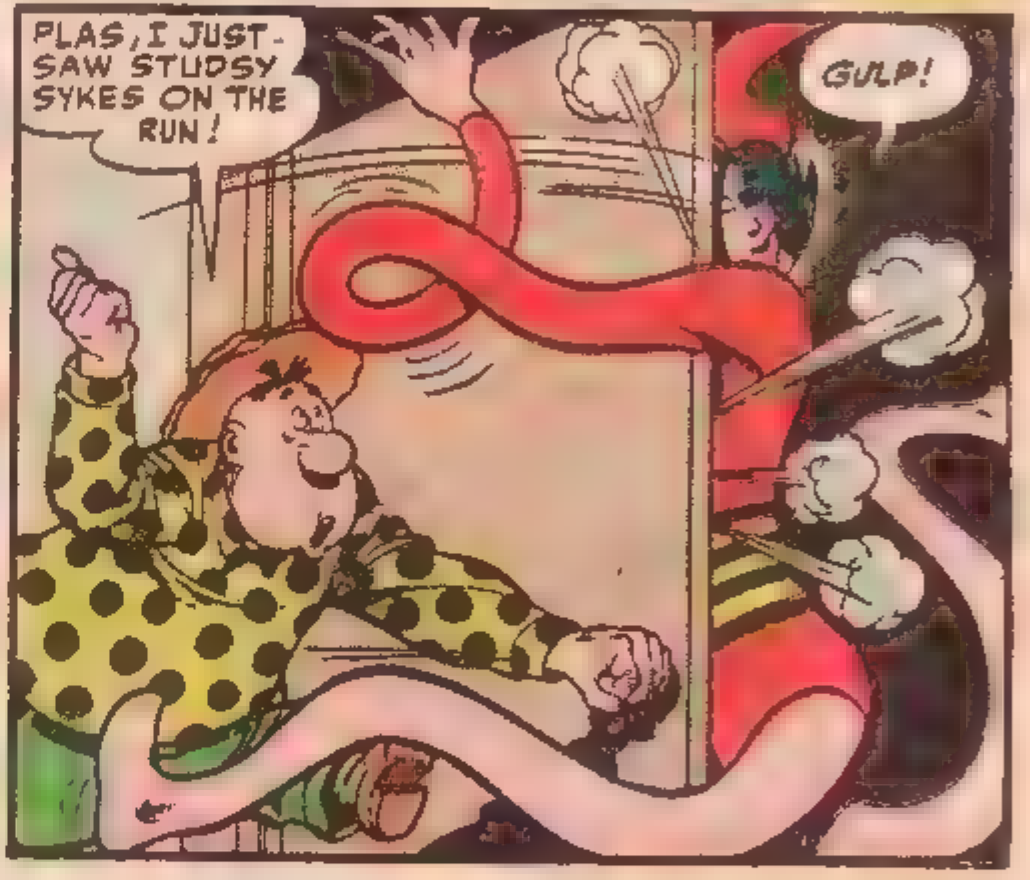
HAW! HAW! AND THEY SAY YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THAT RUBBERY CRUM!

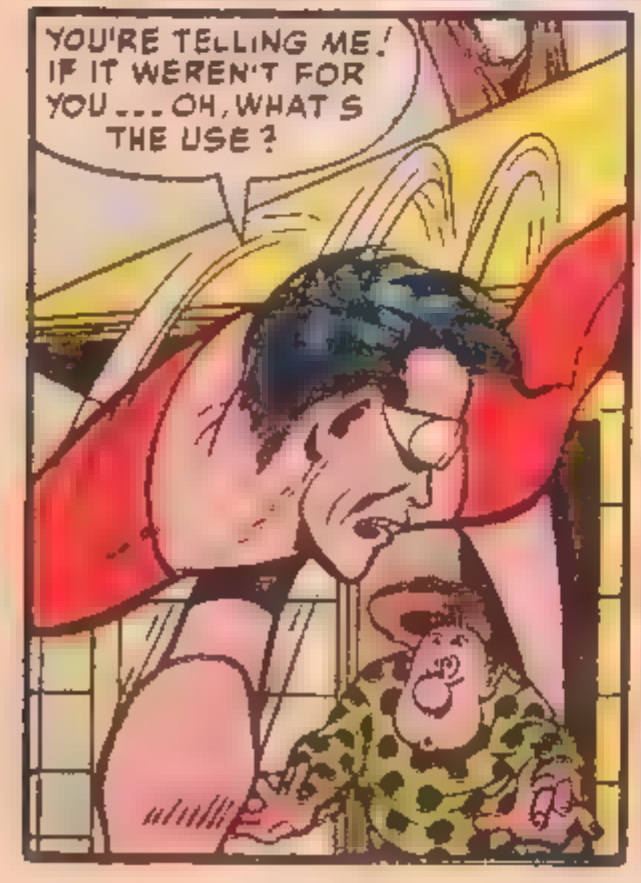
PLASTIC MAN

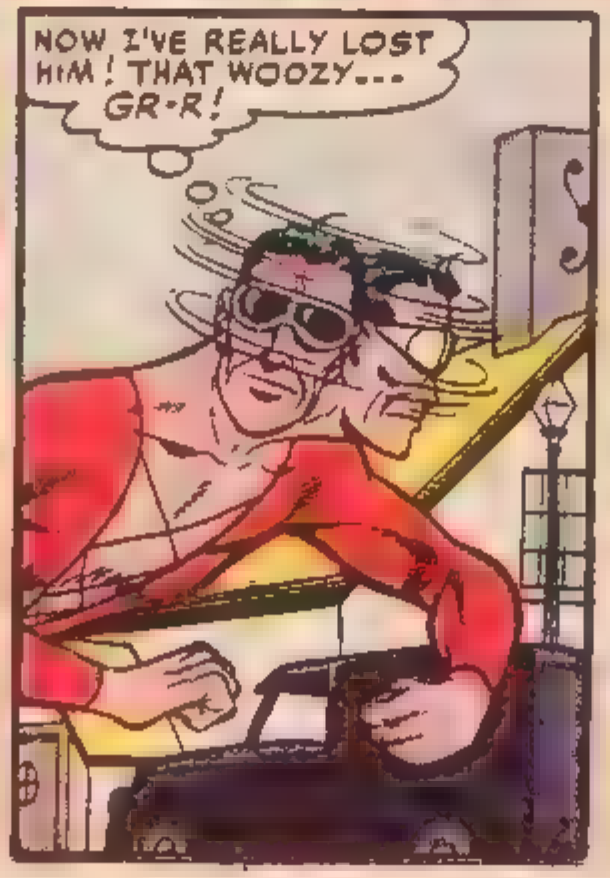

WELL, CAN YOU?
AWRK!

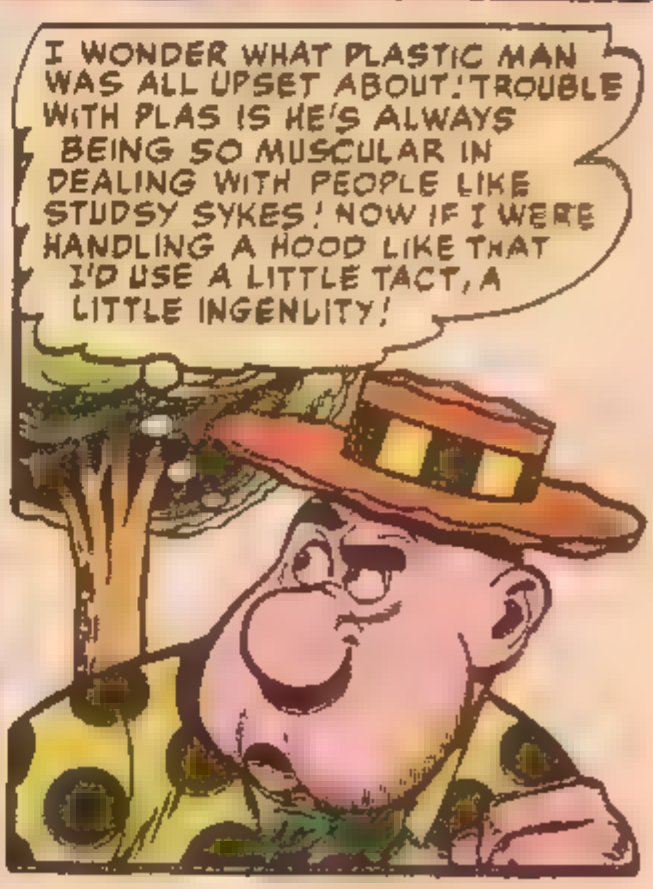

HOLD IT, STUDSY! YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHERE YOU'VE HIDDEN THE BANK LOOT!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR A CHAT!

SOMETHING TELLS ME I'VE BEEN TOO GENTLE WITH YOU, STUDSY!


PLAS, I JUST-SAW STUDSY SYKES ON THE RUN!
GULP!


YOU'RE TELLING ME! IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU... OH, WHAT'S THE USE?


NOW I'VE REALLY LOST HIM! THAT WOOZY... GR-R!


I WONDER WHAT PLASTIC MAN WAS ALL UPSET ABOUT! TROUBLE WITH PLAS IS HE'S ALWAYS BEING SO MUSCULAR IN DEALING WITH PEOPLE LIKE STUDSY SYKES! NOW IF I WERE HANDLING A HOOD LIKE THAT I'D USE A LITTLE TACT, A LITTLE INGENUITY!

IN TROUBLE, EH M'BUCKO? OVER MONEY NO DOUBT. IT ALWAYS AMAZES ME HOW MUCH MONEY MEANS TO MOST PEOPLE AND HOW LITTLE IT MEANS TO ME! MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE THEY HAVE SO LITTLE OF IT AND I HAVE SO MUCH!

WELL WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GO GET SOME!

WELL, WE'LL NEED A BOAT! I DON'T HAVE ONE AT THE MOMENT!

I KNOW WHERE I CAN BUY ONE! I'LL MAKE THE INVESTMENT MYSELF! IT'S DOWN AT THE TENTH STREET WHARF RIGHT NOW! FOXY LEWIS HAS BEEN TRYING TO SELL IT TO ME FOR A YEAR!

IT'LL TAKE ME AN HOUR TO LOCATE FOXY AND BUY THE BOAT! MEET ME AT THE TENTH STREET WHARF IN TWO HOURS!

AH, I CAN SMELL THE SALT IN MY OLD NOSE AGAIN! I'LL BE THERE, LAD!

CAPTAIN BILLIONS, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

EH?

THAT FELLOW YOU'RE GOING TO SHARE YOUR TREASURE WITH... HE'S A CROOK, A CRIMINAL, IN FACT HE'S DISHONEST! THAT'S STUDSY SYKES! HE'LL ROB YOU!

AH, ALAS!

THAT ONE SO YOUNG SHOULD HAVE SUCH LITTLE FAITH IN A FELLOW HUMAN BEING!

WHO'S SO YOUNG---I MEAN WHO'S HUMAN---OH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

I CAN SEE THERE'S NO POINT IN TRYING TO CONVINCE CAPTAIN BILLIONS! THIS THING'S GETTING TOO BIG FOR ME! I'D BETTER FIND PLASTIC MAN AGAIN!

PLAS, STUDSY SYKES IS ABOUT TO TAKE OVER A NICE OLD GUY NAMED CAPTAIN JOSHUA T. BILLIONS! THE POOR OLD MAN IS ABOUT TO LEAD HIM RIGHT TO A TREASURE ON AMOS ISLAND! THEY'RE LEAVING IN TWO HOURS ON A BOAT THAT'S WAITING AT THE TENTH STREET WHARF!

BILLIONS EH? AND YOU FOUND STUDSY! VERY INTERESTING!

OF COURSE I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP YOU CATCH STUDSY SYKES RED-HANDED AS HE TRIES TO STEAL THE OLD MAN'S TREASURE!

DON'T BOTHER, WOOZY! I'D RATHER TAKE CARE OF IT MYSELF AS SOON AS I'VE CHECKED ON SOMETHING BACK IN THE OFFICE

THAT'S GRATITUDE! THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR LETTING PLASTIC MAN IN ON THE CASE! WELL, HE ISN'T KEEPING ME OUT OF IT! IF I CAN'T GO WITH PLASTIC MAN, I'LL BE RIGHT ON THAT BOAT WITH STUDSY AND CAPTAIN BILLIONS!

I'LL TELL CAPTAIN BILLIONS AND THAT CROOK THAT I COME WITH THE BOAT... THAT I'M THE STEWARD OR FIRST MATE OR SOMETHING!

THAT'S IT! I JUST BOUGHT IT!

A REAL SAILING SLOOP! IT WARMS MY BLOOD TO LOOK AT IT!

WELCOME ABOARD, GENTLEMEN! I'M THE...

NEVER MIND WHAT YOU ARE! I'VE SEEN YOU AROUND WITH PLASTIC MAN!

SEEMS TO ME I'VE SEEN THE LUBBER SOMEWHERE BEFORE, TOO

LET'S NOT BOTHER ABOUT IT! WE'LL JUST PITCH HIM OVERBOARD AS SOON AS WE'RE OUT TO SEA!

SHE'S A FAST SLOOP! WE'LL BE AT AMOS ISLAND BY MORNING!

IT'S ALMOST DARK! GUESS I'LL GO BELOW AND FIGURE OUT HOW I'M GONNA SPEND THAT TREASURE!

BUT FIRST I'LL DUMP THIS LUG!

I DON'T CARE FOR VIOLENCE MYSELF BUT IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE LAD, I'M SURE I WOULDN'T WANT TO STAND IN YOUR WAY!

HALP!

HAW! HAW! PLASTIC MAN CAN'T HELP YOU OUT HERE, SUCKER!

ALWAYS SO SURE OF HIMSELF THAT STUDSY!

PLAS! YOU HERE?

YES! AND I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME ALONG!

NOW LIE LOW HERE UNTIL WE'VE REACHED THE ISLAND! THIS SHOULD BE MY OPPORTUNITY TO GET ENOUGH ON STUDSY SYKES TO SEND HIM UP FOR LIFE AND I DON'T WANT YOU FOULING THINGS UP!

I'LL BE GOOD, PLAS!

NEXT MORNING...

HERE WE ARE, LAD! MOST PEOPLE THINK A TREASURE HAS TO BE BURIED ON AN ISLAND THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY BUT AMOS ISLAND WAS FAR ENOUGH FOR ME! IT HAS A NICE NATURAL HARBOR, TOO!

WHO CARES ABOUT ALL THAT NAUTICAL NONSENSE? LET'S GET THE PICKS AND SHOVELS AND START DIGGING!

THREE HUNDRED YARDS UP THE BEACH AND THEN TWO HUNDRED YARDS TO THE RIGHT TO THE CLUMP OF TREES! THIS IS A GOOD MAP I DREW!

HERE WE ARE! START DIGGING!

THIS IS THE ONLY TIME IN MY LIFE I'VE FELT LIKE DIGGING DITCHES!

I'LL TELL YOU WHEN TO STOP!

MEANWHILE...

BUT, PLAS, WHAT ARE WE DOING ON THIS SIDE OF THE CLUMP OF TREES? STUBSY AND CAPTAIN BILLIONS ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE!

QUIT ASKING QUESTIONS AND SIMPLY DO WHAT I TELL YOU!

HEY, HOW ABOUT YOU DOING SOME DIGGING?

TRUTH TO TELL, LAD, I NEVER CARED FOR THE TASK! KEEP GOING! YOU'RE ALMOST DEEP ENOUGH!

THAT'LL DO IT, MATEY! THE PERFECT DEPTH!

BUT IT CAN'T BE DEEP ENOUGH FOR THE TREASURE! I DON'T SEE IT YET!

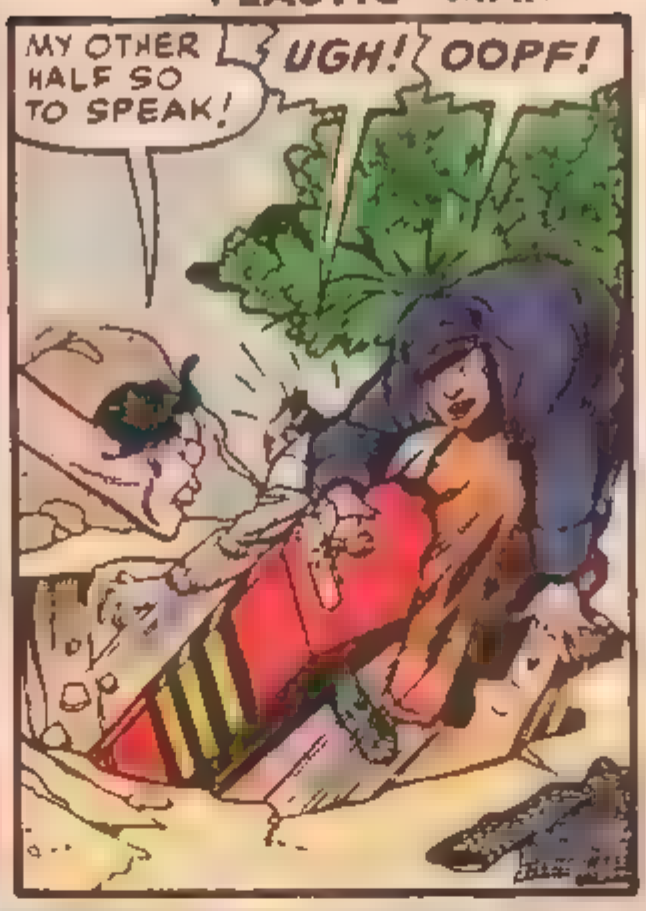
MAYBE NOT DEEP ENOUGH FOR TREASURE BUT DEEP ENOUGH FOR A GRAVE... YOUR GRAVE, MATEY, AS SOON AS YOU'VE HANDED OVER THE SWAG FROM THE SEVENTH NATIONAL BANK JOB WHICH I HAPPEN TO KNOW YOU'VE BEEN CARRYING ON YOUR PERSON!

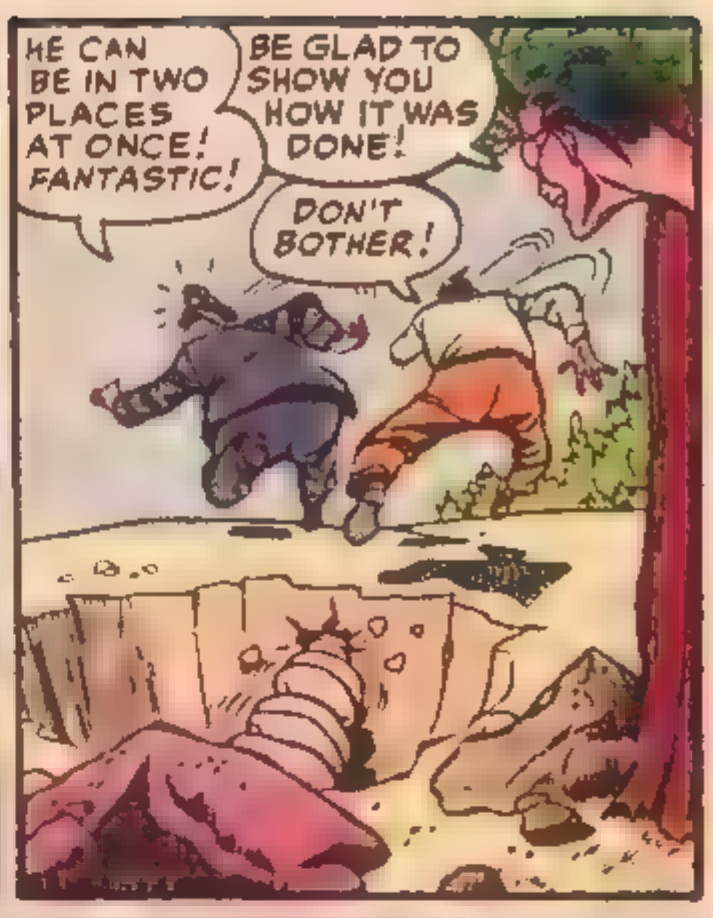
JUST A MINUTE, BOYS!

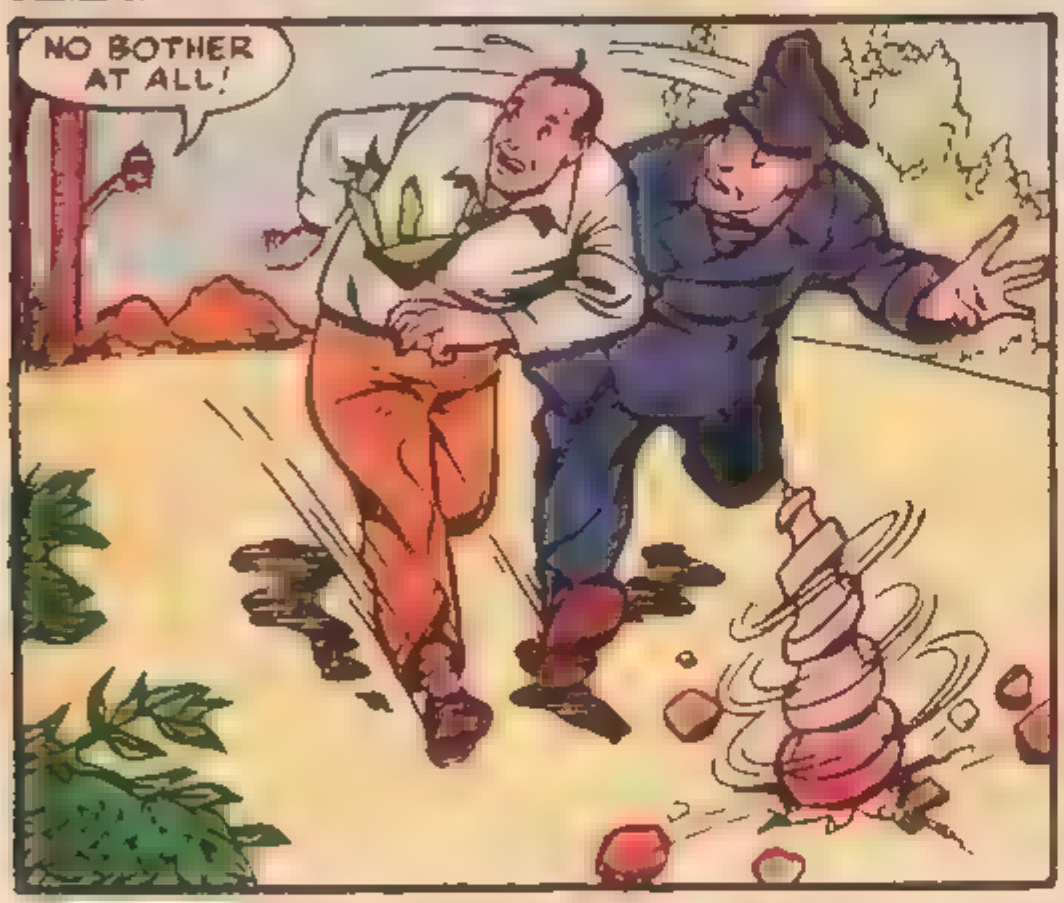
WHAT?

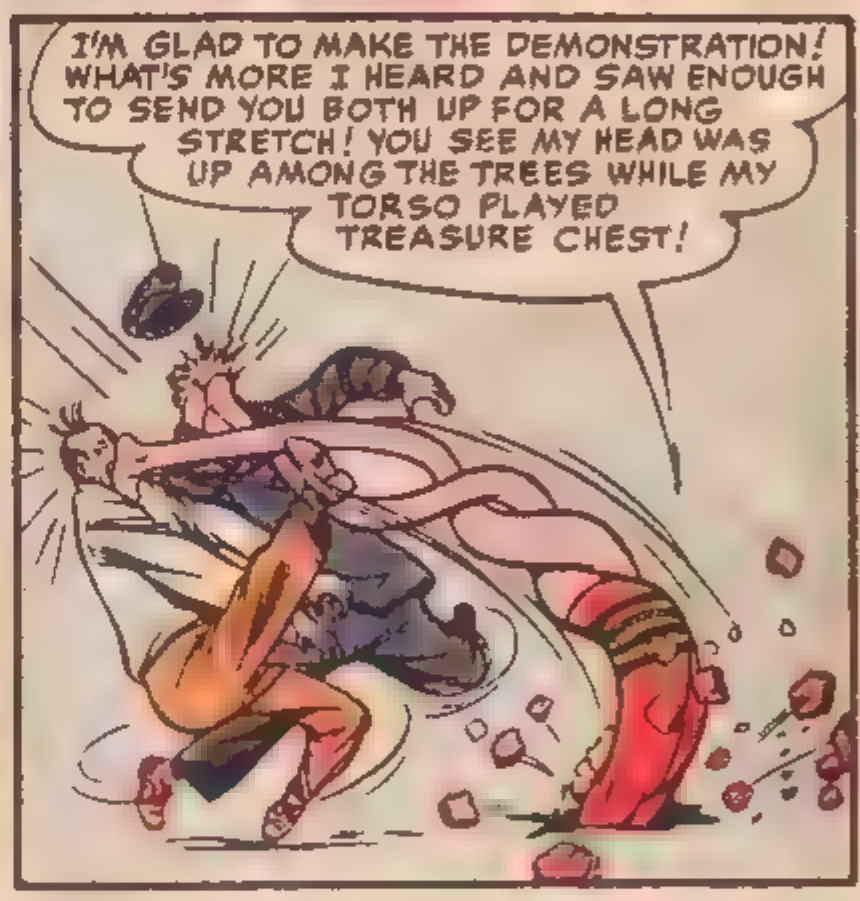
PLASTIC MAN

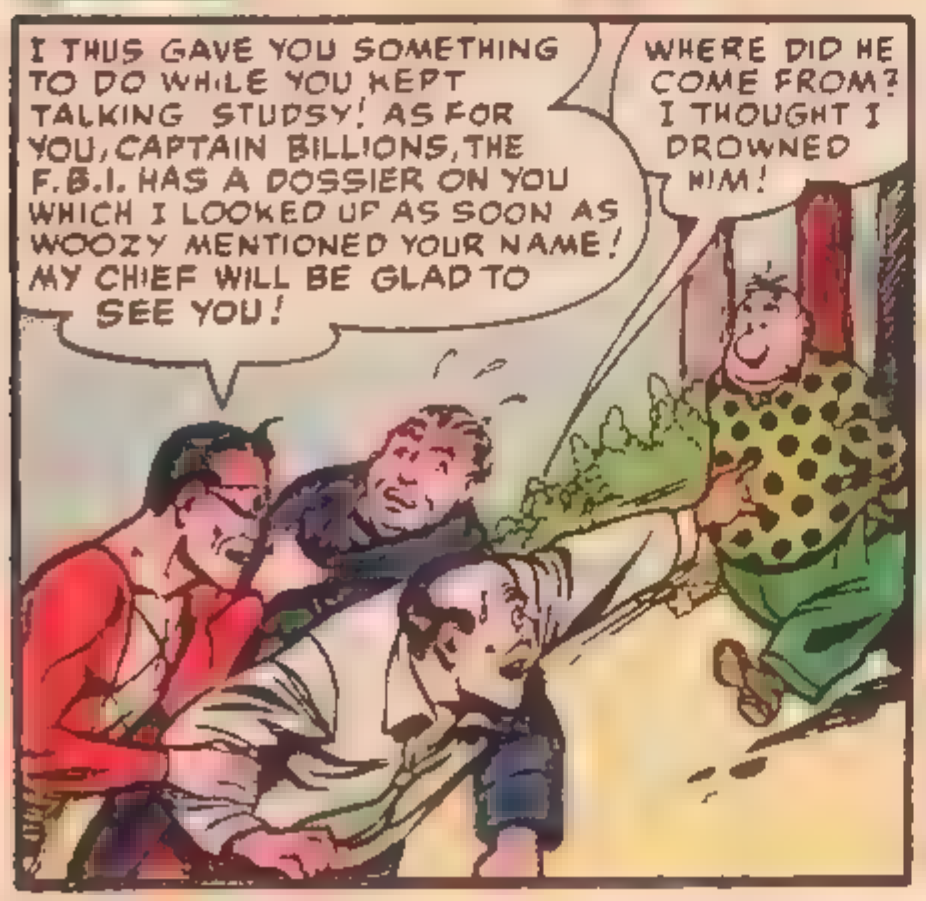
YAWP! WHO SAID THAT? PLASTIC MAN!
SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

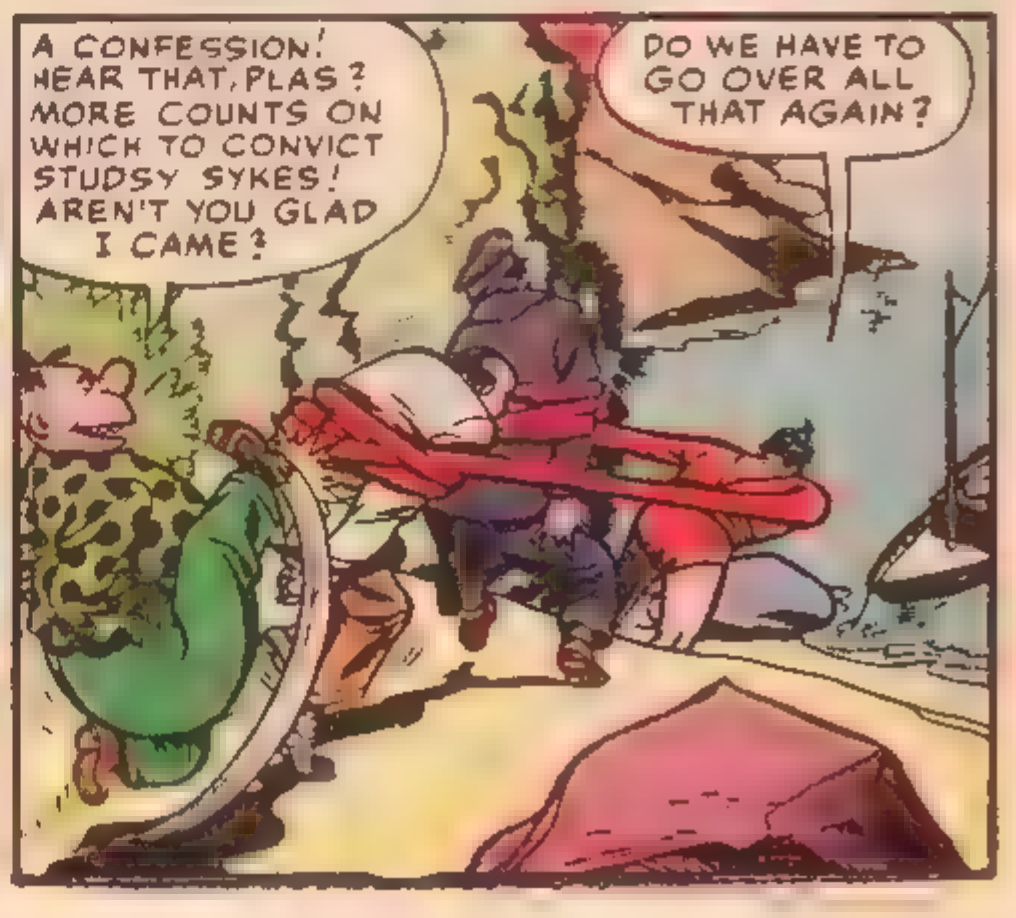

MY OTHER HALF SO TO SPEAK!
UGH!
OOPF!


HE CAN BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE! FANTASTIC!
BE GLAD TO SHOW YOU HOW IT WAS DONE!
DON'T BOTHER!


NO BOTHER AT ALL!


I'M GLAD TO MAKE THE DEMONSTRATION! WHAT'S MORE I HEARD AND SAW ENOUGH TO SEND YOU BOTH UP FOR A LONG STRETCH! YOU SEE MY HEAD WAS UP AMONG THE TREES WHILE MY TORSO PLAYED TREASURE CHEST!


I THUS GAVE YOU SOMETHING TO DO WHILE YOU KEPT TALKING STUDSY! AS FOR YOU, CAPTAIN BILLIONS, THE F.B.I. HAS A DOSSIER ON YOU WHICH I LOOKED UP AS SOON AS WOOZY MENTIONED YOUR NAME! MY CHIEF WILL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU!
WHERE DID HE COME FROM? I THOUGHT I DROWNED HIM!


A CONFESSION! HEAR THAT, PLAS? MORE COUNTS ON WHICH TO CONVICT STUDSY SYKES! AREN'T YOU GLAD I CAME?
DO WE HAVE TO GO OVER ALL THAT AGAIN?

Incident in a Storm

DOCTOR Fielding Martin answered his home phone shortly after dinner on a rainy evening. It was an emergency call from the hospital. "Doctor," the voice said, "we have a boy here, gunshot wound in the head. We need an expert surgeon at once. Can you help us?" Dr. Martin replied quickly, "Of course, but I'm way out here in this country town. Can't you get Doctor Ortley, he's right in the city." "Dr. Ortley is away, sir, you're the only one we can turn to," was the reply. Dr. Martin said, "I'll leave immediately, but remember it will take me some time to get there, especially in this weather. I doubt if I can make it before ten." "Thank you, doctor. We feel that the patient will last that long in spite of the seriousness of his condition."

The doctor got ready hurriedly and left shortly thereafter. The storm seemed worse and he strained his eyes to see the highway as he drove along. He snapped on the radio and listened with interest to a news reporter describe an attempted robbery by two men. One of them, a boy scarcely over eighteen had been shot by the night watchman and was now at Jordan Memorial Hospital, still unidentified and in a serious condition. The other thief was still at large. Then followed a weather report, predicting even heavier rains. This was interrupted by the excited voice of the news reporter once again, "It has just been learned that the wounded robber is John Harburg of Leestown and police suspect that his accomplice was his father, Edward Harburg, an ex-convict." Doctor Martin shook his head, "Why they're from my own town," he thought in amazement. The name, Harburg, wasn't familiar to him but the fact that he was rushing in to operate on a boy from his small town, struck him as being highly coincidental.

Halfway into the city, Dr. Martin stopped for a traffic light at a busy intersection. He saw a man in a brown leather jacket start across the street. Before he knew what was happening, the man was at the car door and then into the car, aiming a gun at the doctor. "Do as I tell you," growled the gunman, "and you won't get hurt." The doctor protested, "But this is an emergency, I'm a doctor and . . ." "You'll be the emergency, doc, if you don't do as I say," threatened the man. "Now take a right turn, here, away from the city and go until I tell you to stop."

The man was obviously in a dangerous frame of mind and the doctor, being an older man, knew the thug was more than a match for him. He obeyed instructions, finding it impossible to put the wounded boy in the hospital out of his mind. He tried to speak several times, to tell his abductor why he must release him, but the man silenced him brusquely each time. Finally after driving quite a distance, the man grew impatient, he seemed to be wrestling with a problem. "Stop the car," he ordered, "I've made up my mind. I can get there faster by myself." He pushed the doctor out of the car. Doctor Martin pleaded with the man to drop him off near a phone. "So you can call the cops," jeered the man in the brown jacket, "not a chance, bud." And he roared off into the night. The doctor pulled his coat collar up and started to trudge back, recalling an all-night filling station they had passed some miles back. He was soaked and dishevelled by the time he got there. He explained what had happened hastily to the attendant and since there was no car available, he called a cab from the city to rush out and pick him up.

The time seemed interminable until the cab came into sight and then the ride back into the city seemed twice as long again. Finally, at midnight, the exhausted doctor walked in the door of the hospital. He was met by his young assistant, "I'm sorry to report, Dr. Martin, that the Harburg boy died an hour ago . . ." he began, looking in amazement at the doctor's soaking clothing. By this time they were abreast of the hospital waiting room. Dr. Martin caught sight of a uniformed policeman inside. He headed for the door. "Oh, yes," said his assistant, "the boy's father is here." He led Dr. Martin into the room. "Mr. Harburg," he began, addressing the hunched and sobbing form of a man seated on the bench, "This is Dr. Martin. He's the doctor who would have operated on your son." The man in the brown jacket raised his eyes to meet the doctor's.

PLASTIC MAN

HER NAME WAS **GRANDMA CROOKES** AND HEARTS MELTED AT THE SWEET SENTIMENTAL SIGHT OF HER! TENDER HEARTS, TOUGH HEARTS, WOOZY'S HEART AND PLASTIC MAN'S HEART... ALL TURNED TO JELLY IN HER PRESENCE! WELL, WHAT'S WRONG WITH A LITTLE OLD-FASHIONED SENTIMENTALITY? NOTHING, MAYBE... EXCEPT THAT IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE IT HAD **PLASTIC MAN** GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES WHILE THE MOST DARING CRIMINAL IN TOWN SEEMED TO BE GOING AROUND WHEREVER HE PLEASED!

WHEW! I WOULDN'T EVEN EXPECT ROCKY CROOKES TO PULL A JOB LIKE THIS IS BROAD DAYLIGHT! BUT THERE HE IS DOING IT! LUCKY THE ARMORED CAR PEOPLE HAD A HUNCH I OUGHT TO TAG ALONG ON THIS TRIP!

ROCKY MUST BE GETTING SOFT IN THE HEAD TO THINK HE CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS, PLAS!

DON'T BOTHER TAKING THAT MONEY, ROCKY! YOU WON'T NEED IT WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

PLASTIC MAN

STILL TRYING, EH ROCKY?

WHAT A TIME THEY PICKED TO START UP AGAIN!

HE HAS QUITE A START THIS TIME!

AH! HE THINKS HE SHOOK ME! NOW I'LL BE ABLE TO BEARD HIM IN HIS DEN!

HEY, PLAS, WAIT FOR ME! I WANT TO SEE HOW THIS WINDS UP!

HMM! ROCKY'S BEING KIND OF OVERCONFIDENT TO LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN THIS WAY!

OH, THE POOR BOY! OH, MY UNHAPPY GRANDSON! HE MUST HAVE BEEN IN SUCH TERRIBLE TROUBLE TO RUN AWAY, LIKE THAT!

I BEG YOUR PARDON! ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ROCKY CROOKES?

OH, THE POOR LAMB! HE LOOKED SO HARRIED!

I CAN WELL UNDERSTAND THAT! WHICH WAY DID HE GO?

OUT THAT WINDOW! :SOB:

???

PLAS, HAVEN'T YOU CAUGHT ROCKY YET? AND WHO IS THIS DEAR OLD LADY?

ROCKY'S GRANDMOTHER, A PRETTY AWFUL THING TO HAVE TO BE!

YES, I'M GRANDMA CROOKES! OH, I TRIED SO HARD TO MAKE A GOOD BOY OF ROCKY! :SOB:

:SNIFF: POOR GRANDMA! PLAS, HOW CAN YOU TALK SO HEARTLESSLY WHILE THIS KINDLY OLD CREATURE CRIES HER POOR HEART OUT?

ER... OH, I'M SORRY! I GUESS I'M KIND OF WROUGHT UP ABOUT ROCKY MYSELF... THOUGH NOT IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY! THERE.. THERE... GRANDMA CROOKES!

WHY NOT LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE OF THINGS? TWENTY YEARS IN JAIL MIGHT MAKE A REFORMED MAN OF ROCKY! :GULP: WHAT AM I SAYING?

PLAS, HOW CAN YOU?

:SOB: :SNIFF: :SOB:

OH, WHAT'S THE USE? I'M ONLY MAKING MATTERS WORSE! BESIDES I HAVE A JOB TO DO!

HMM! SWELL CHANCE OF FINDING ROCKY NOW AFTER WASTING ALL THAT TIME!

HEY, PLAS, WHY DIDN'T YOU WAIT FOR ME? SUPPOSE YOU FIND ROCKY... YOU MIGHT NEED MY HELP!

COULD BE! EVEN YOU COULDN'T FOUL THINGS UP WORSE THAN I HAVE! BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D STILL BE CONSOLING GRANDMA CROOKES!

:SOB: :SOB: ISN'T IT HEARTBREAKING TO THINK OF AN ANGEL LIKE THAT OLD LADY SUFFERING SO OVER THAT NO-GOOD GRANDSON OF HERS!

SURE! SURE! I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE HARSH WITH HER! BUT THE THING THAT GETS ME IS LOSING ROCKY WHEN I PRACTICALLY HAD HIM IN THE PALM OF MY HAND!

UH-OH! SPEAKING OF THE PALM OF MY HAND! I WONDER...!

YOU WONDER WHAT, PLAS?

NEVER MIND, WOOZY! I JUST REMEMBERED A LITTLE RESEARCH I HAVE TO DO IN THE F.B.I. FILES!

LATER, AT THE HOME OF GRANDMA CROOKES...

GRANDMA! IT'S YOUR LITTLE GRANDSON ROCKY BACK SAFE AND SOUND!

:GULP:

I OWE MY ESCAPE FROM PLASTIC MAN TO YOU, GRANDMA, AND DON'T THINK I DON'T APPRECIATE IT!

BUT...!

THERE...THERE... GRANDMA, I KNOW WHAT A TOUGH DAY YOU'VE HAD! NOW JUST RELAX! WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN! ISN'T IT WONDERFUL?

SURE...ER... SURE!

IN THE MEANTIME...

PLAS HAS BEEN SO UNPREDICTABLE ALL DAY! OH, WELL, I'LL JUST GO BACK AND SEE HOW DEAR OLD GRANDMA CROOKES IS FEELING NOW!

And BACK AT GRANDMA CROOKES'...

GRANDMA, WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU DON'T LOOK WELL!

I'M A LITTLE FAINT! GET MY SMELLING SALTS FROM THE MANTEL, DEAR BOY!

GRANDMA CROOKES, HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW... =GULP=

GRANDMA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT GUN?

I HEARD SOMEBODY ABOUT TO ENTER! I WANTED TO DEFEND YOU, IF NECESSARY!

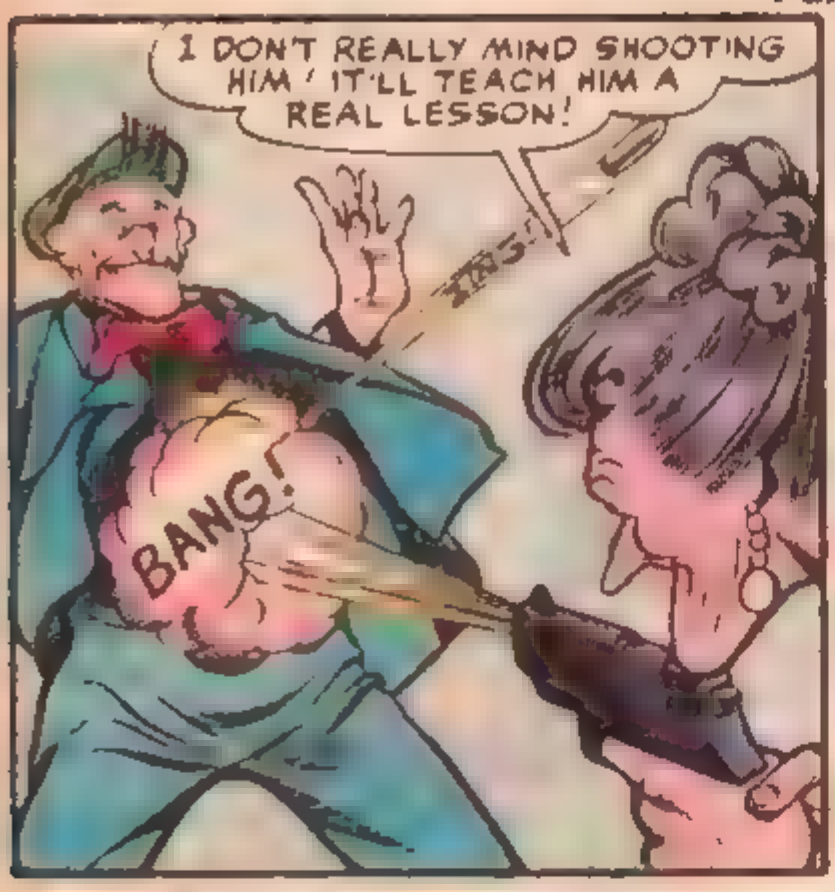
ROCKY CROOKES!

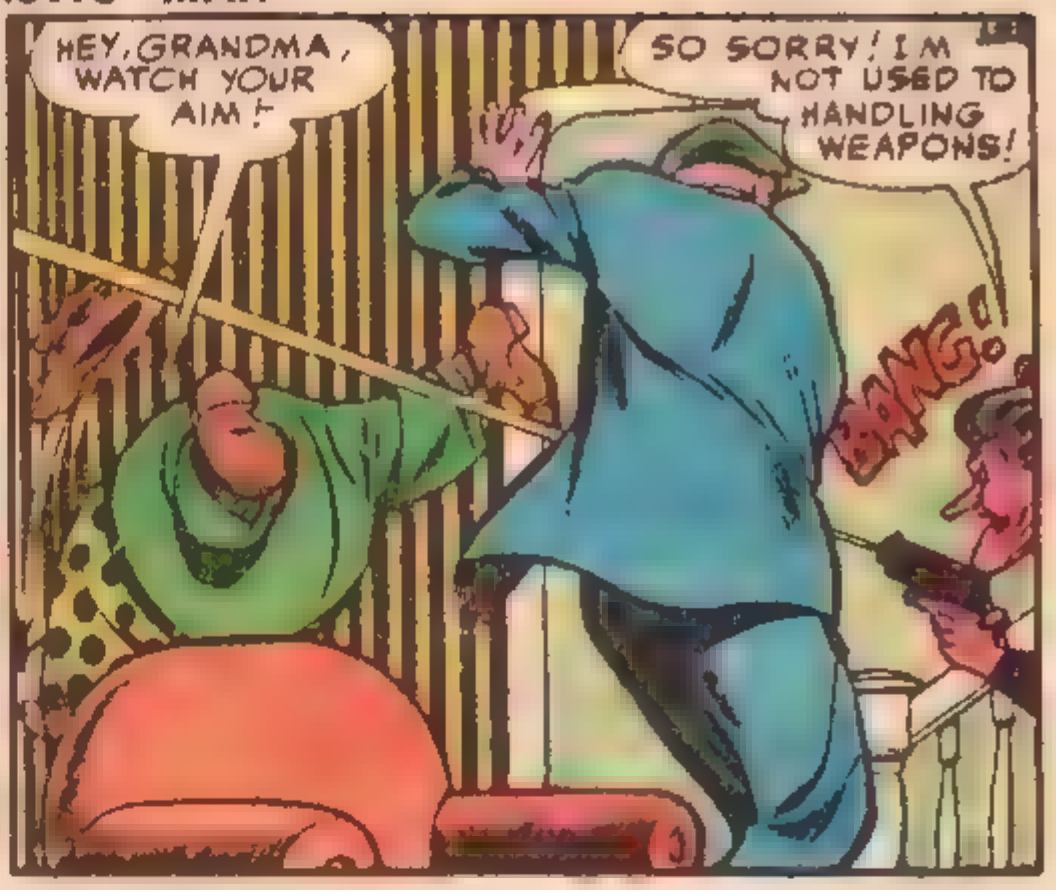
I KNOW IT'S A TERRIBLE THING TO ASK, GRANDMA CROOKES, BUT THIS MAN IS WANTED BY THE LAW! EVEN THOUGH HE'S YOUR KITH AND KIN IT'S YOUR DUTY TO HELP APPREHEND HIM!

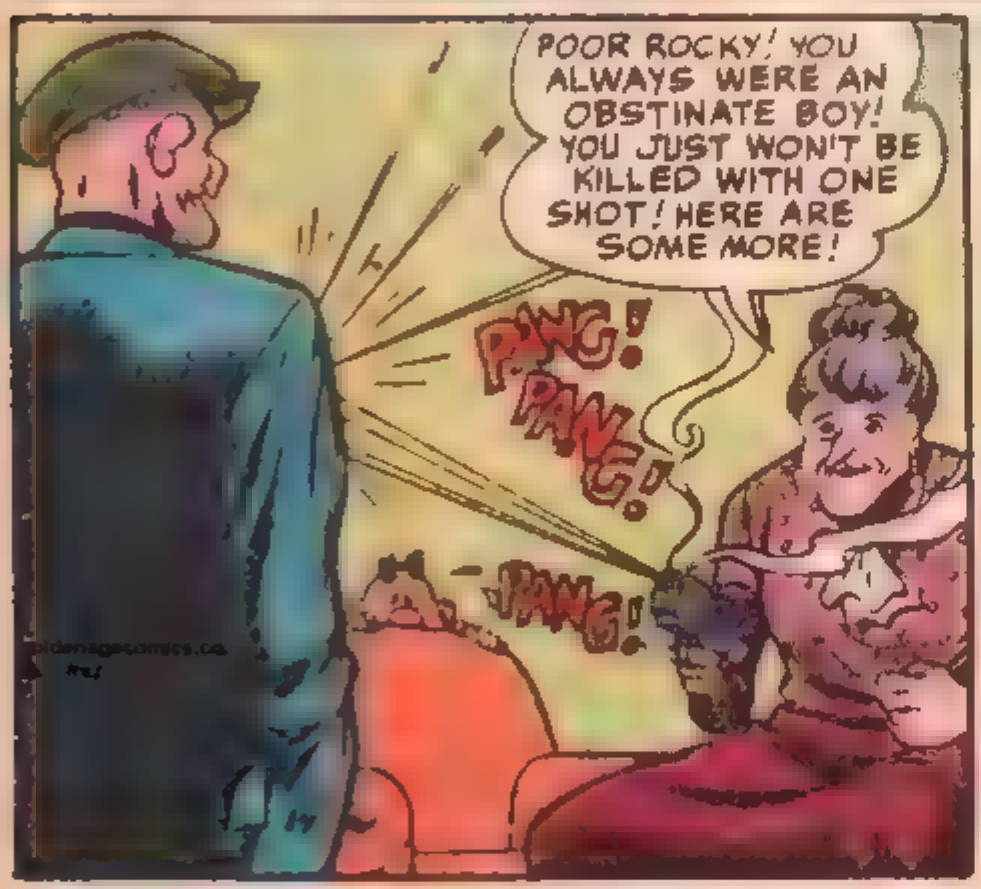
DEAR, DEAR, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, YOUNG MAN!

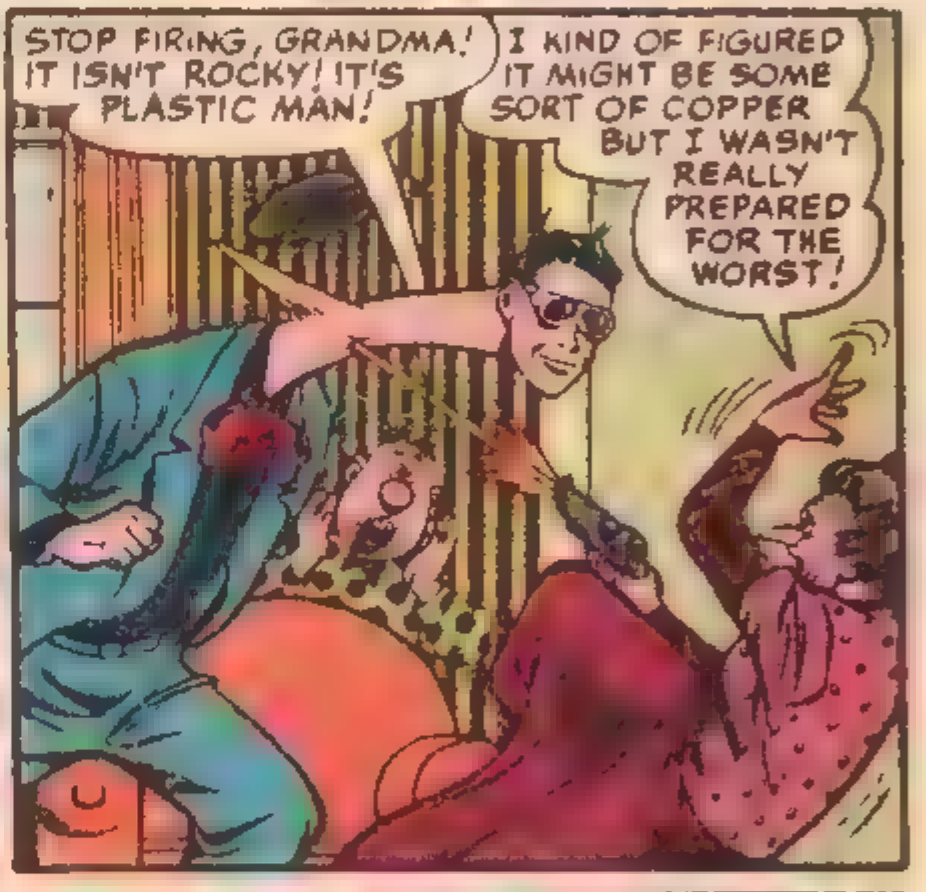
PERHAPS I'D BETTER JUST SHOOT HIM!

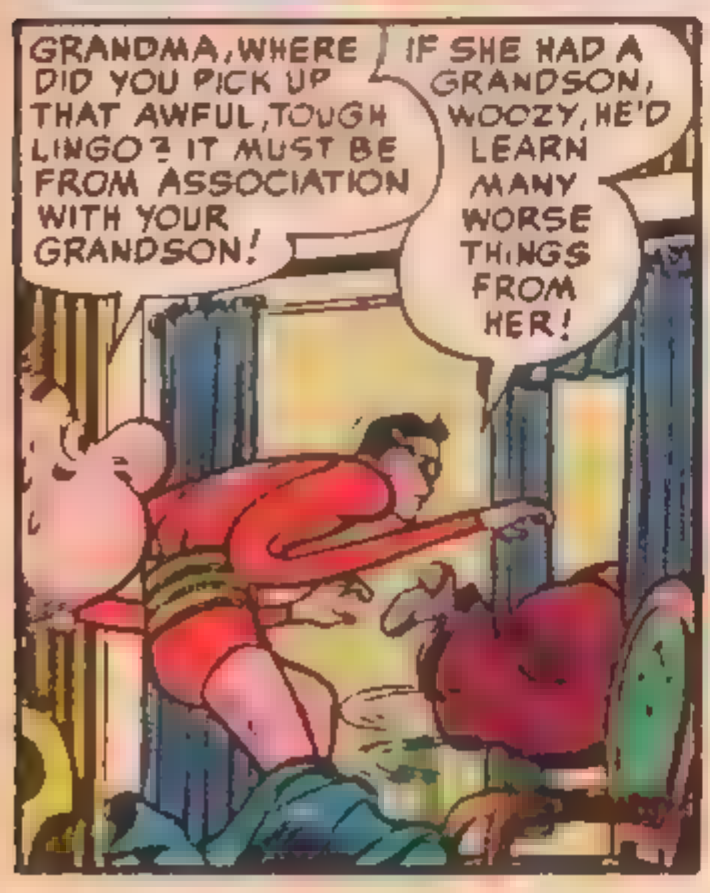
NO, NO! THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY! HE'LL SURRENDER AS SOON AS YOU EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT IT'S BETTER FOR EVERYBODY CONCERNED!


I DON'T REALLY MIND SHOOTING HIM! IT'LL TEACH HIM A REAL LESSON!
BANG!


HEY, GRANDMA, WATCH YOUR AIM!
SO SORRY! I'M NOT USED TO HANDLING WEAPONS!
BANG!


POOR ROCKY! YOU ALWAYS WERE AN OBSTINATE BOY! YOU JUST WON'T BE KILLED WITH ONE SHOT! HERE ARE SOME MORE!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!


STOP FIRING, GRANDMA! IT ISN'T ROCKY! IT'S PLASTIC MAN!
I KIND OF FIGURED IT MIGHT BE SOME SORT OF COPPER BUT I WASN'T REALLY PREPARED FOR THE WORST!


GRANDMA, WHERE DID YOU PICK UP THAT AWFUL, TOUGH LINGO? IT MUST BE FROM ASSOCIATION WITH YOUR GRANDSON!
IF SHE HAD A GRANDSON, WOOZY, HE'D LEARN MANY WORSE THINGS FROM HER!

BACK INTO YOUR ARMCHAIR, GRANDMA! THIS IS NO TIME TO RUN AWAY!

NOW...!
PLAS YOU CAN'T STRIKE AN OLD LADY! WHAT'S COME OVER YOU? I ADMIT SHE MAY HAVE BEHAVED PECULIARLY BUT THEN LOOK AT THE SHOCKING EXPERIENCES SHE'S HAD TODAY!

DON'T DO IT, PLAS! YOU'D NEVER FORGIVE YOURSELF! :SOB:

WHO'S SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT STRIKING ANYBODY?

I AM!

OOPF!

GRANDMA! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT! IT ISN'T NICE!

SHUT UP, CRUMP! I'VE HEARD ABOUT ENOUGH OUT OF YOU!

IF YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, WOOZY, I THINK I WILL TRY SOCKING HIM THIS TIME! I'VE HAD ABOUT ENOUGH OF THIS CAT AND MOUSE GAME!

HIM? WHOM?

SURE--- *HIM!* ROCKY CROOKES, TO BE SPECIFIC! I SUSPECTED IT AS SOON AS I NOTICED THE ACTOR'S GREASE PAINT ON MY PALM! IT CAME OFF WHEN I PATTED POOR GRANDMA'S FACE!

IT ***IS*** ROCKY! BUT, PLAS, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST COME BACK AND NAB HIM AS SOON AS YOU SAW THE GREASE PAINT ON YOUR HAND?

THEY TEACH US THOROUGHNESS AT THE F.B.I! I SEARCHED THE RECORDS FIRST AND FOUND THAT ROCKY HAD ONCE BEEN A LIGHTNING CHANGE ARTIST IN VAUDEVILLE BEFORE HE LEFT THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW!

EVEN THEN I HAD TO BE CAREFUL! THERE COULD ALWAYS BE A MISTAKE AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO HURT GRANDMA'S FEELINGS IF SHE ***WERE*** GRANDMA! I WAS MAKING SURE WHEN YOU BARGED IN, WOOZY!

QUIT RUBBING IT IN, PLASTIC MAN! YOU'LL FIND THE MONEYBAGS IN THE BUREAU DRAWER!

Boys! Girls! Mothers! Dads!

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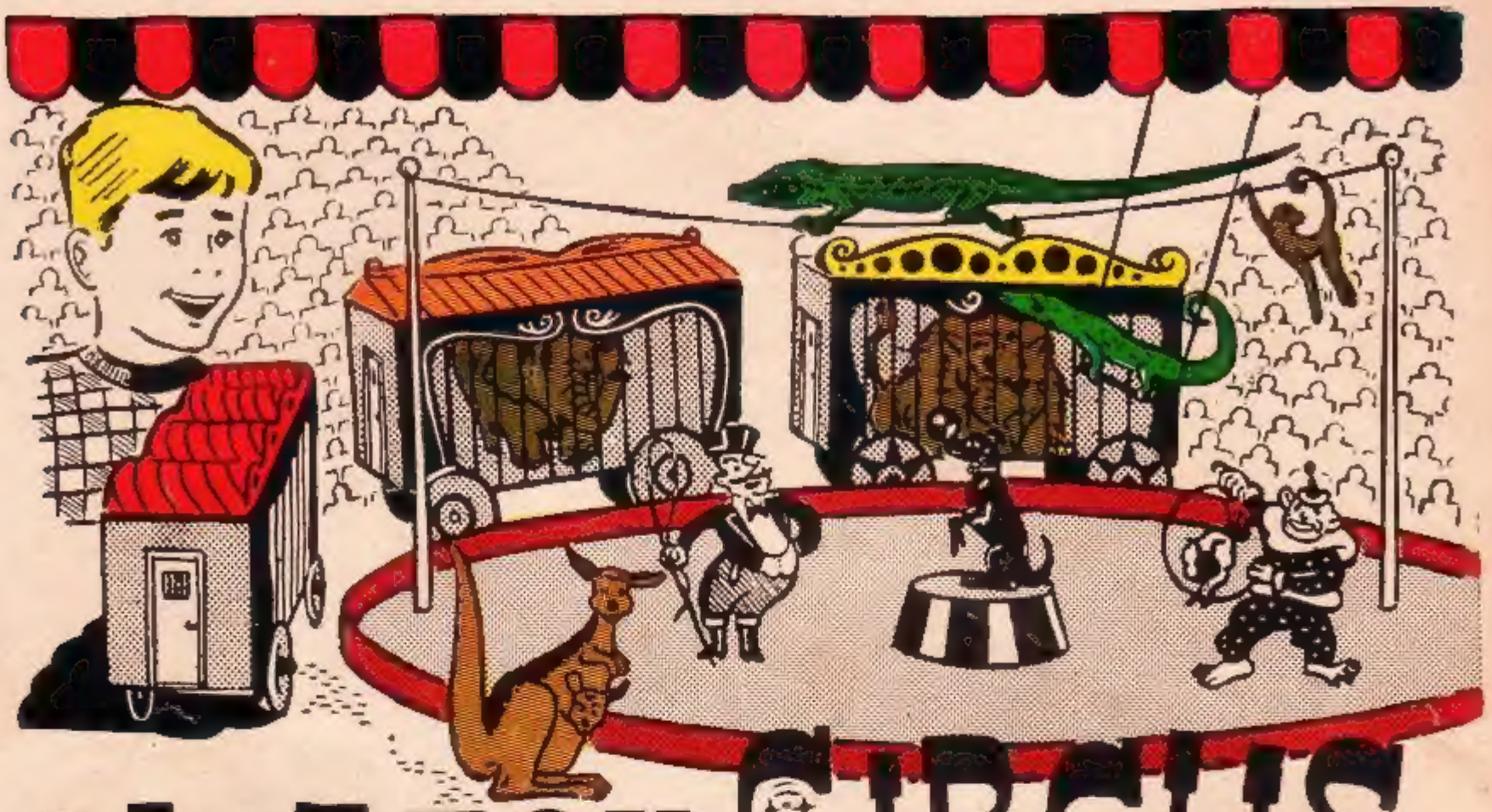

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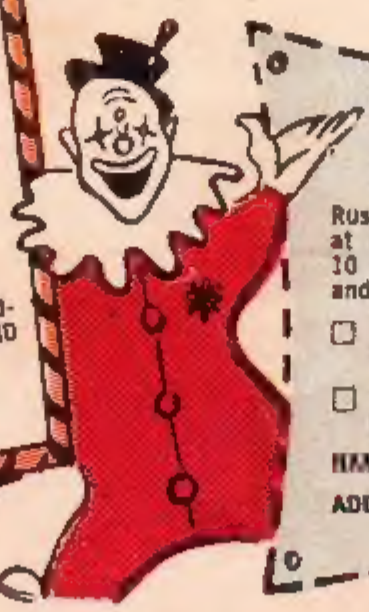

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